

IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

## Robert de Niro talks about facing up to his demons (and his new movie)

READ THE INTERVIEW IN TOMORROW'S FILM SECTION

THE BEST WRITING IS IN THE INDEPENDENT EVERY WEEK: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCGRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DONALD MACINTYRE, ANNE MCELVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD

## Lawyers face jail over links with fraudsters

**LAWYERS AND** accountants who fail to tip off the police about clients they suspect are laundering money face up to five years in jail, under government proposals announced yesterday.

Suspected major criminals could also have assets worth more than £10,000 seized by the courts as part of sweeping changes to confiscation and money-laundering laws. The police plan to use Inland Revenue tax files to help them target criminals who hide their money in legitimate businesses and offshore banks.

The initiative follows growing frustration among law enforcers that criminal "Mr Bigs" are able to live lavish lifestyles funded by drug dealing, counterfeiting and smuggling without fear of prosecution.

A Home Office working group yesterday published proposals to force all professionals, business and trades people to tell the police if they know, or suspect, that a client is engaged in money laundering.

The new offence is aimed at solicitors and accountants, but financial advisors, bank managers, and estate agents could also be affected. Failure to report any suspicious transaction could result in a five year prison sentence and an unlimited fine.

BY JASON BENNETTO

Crime Correspondent

Now, the law only requires people to report suspicions that someone is laundering the proceeds of drug trafficking, or is engaged in terrorist fund-raising.

Last year solicitors passed on information in 236 cases and accountants gave details of 44. This compares with more than 10,000 involving building societies and banks.

Robert Roscoe, a council member of the Law Society, which represents 76,000 solicitors in England and Wales, argued that the numbers of referrals were low "because cases involving money laundering are rare".

John Abbott, the director general of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, said an exchange of information with the Inland Revenue, whose files have traditionally been secret, would be important.

Liberty, the civil rights group, however, argued that the proposals "undermine the presumption of innocence" and violate human rights legislation.

The proposals, which are going out to consultation, will cover England and Wales and could become law by 2000.



Curator Chris Gravett cleaning a 17th century exhibit at the Royal Armouries in the Tower of London, which has just completed an eight-year 'redisplay' programme Peter J Jordan

## US pledges 'will wreck' Kyoto deal

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

AMERICA WILL not be able to keep the promises it made at Kyoto last year to fight global warming, the man who negotiated the original world treaty on climate change for the United States said yesterday.

It has pledged to make cuts in its emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide that are simply too enormous to be achieved, Robert Reinstein, a former senior official in the US State Department, said.

Ministers from 180 countries, including Britain's Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, are meeting in Buenos Aires to try to take the Kyoto agreement forward.

"The Americans made a mistake at Kyoto," Mr Reinstein said. "They signed up to something that is impossible to fulfil."

The result, he said, was that the Kyoto accord would eventually fall amidst world-wide reprimands and embarrassments, and the international process of trying to find an answer to global warming would be discredited.

■ **VIRGINIA IRONSIDE**  
'WHAT CAN I DO WHEN MY BABY CRIES?'

■ **PLUS LAW AND FAST TRACK**



from other countries, he said - the so-called "hot air" which is one of the principal points of contention at Buenos Aires.

America would like to buy as much as possible of the national "pollution allowances" available to countries such as Russia and the Ukraine, whose CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are already well below the targets given to them at Kyoto because in the Nineties their smokestack economies have collapsed.

The European Union and the world environment movement all want a firm ceiling on how much hot air the US can buy, so that it does not avoid taking steps to deal with its greenhouse gas emissions at home.

Britain's Kyoto target is to cut back to 12.5 per cent below its 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. This looks likely to be achieved, largely because of the "dash for gas" - the widespread replacement of coal-fired power stations by gas-fired ones, which emit less CO<sub>2</sub>.

The evidence for the approach of global warming is continuing to mount. This year is already certain to be the hottest year in the 150-year-long record of world temperatures.

Mr Prescott said last night of Mr Reinstein's comments: "That's all I'll say... what is clear is that to do nothing is not acceptable, and even if the Americans were only to achieve half their target that's got to be an advance."

## Ypres veteran asks: 'Was it worth it?'

From front page

the wound he received on the Somme. He is also one of the last survivors of the Battle of Loos, in 1915, which he said, "was just as bad".

He was speaking from beneath the awe-inspiring Menin Gate at Ypres where the 54,800 dead, with no known grave, from that sector alone are commemorated.

"The more visits I make the more touching it seems to be. Because there are so few of us left. To see them now, on the way out..." and then his voice trailed away.

Asked what he thought of it all now, Mr Burns replied only that as simple soldiers they just had to do what they were told. "We just lived from day to day - despite the cold and hunger and nightmares and everything else, just hoping to goodness it would be over any day."

As a Royal Signaller aged 20, Arthur Halestrap was listening on the wireless when the Armistice announcement was made and the bells began to chime.

Serving with the 46th Midland Division in their final

battles for the Hindenburg Line and beyond, he reports a surprising reaction.

"Everything went quiet, extremely quiet. There was such a relaxation to the point where life seemed to be empty. There was nothing to do," he said. "We were completely lost, but it was only temporary."

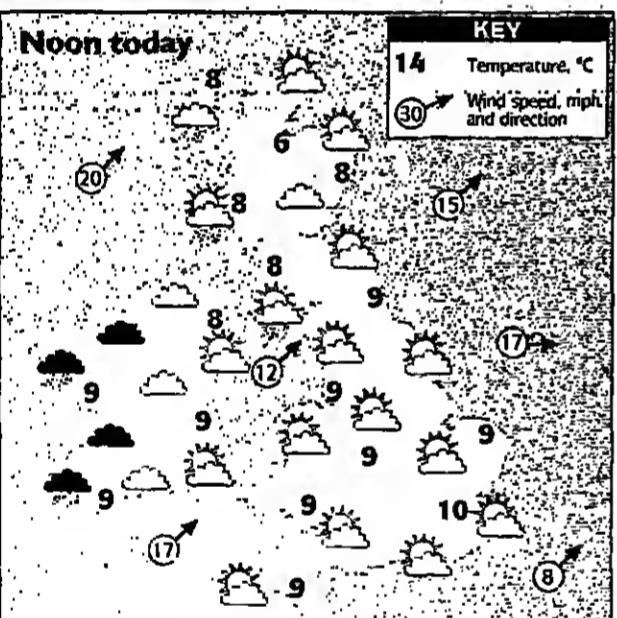
His subsequent reactions to the war and to his own visits to the battlefields have been more predictable and were just as eloquently expressed:

"When I come back here, all I can think of is the tens of thousands of men of my own generation who died in terrible, terrible circumstances - hanging off barbed wire for days in some cases with their pals being shot trying to rescue them," he said. "And I think that these young men had volunteered and died for an ideal - the preserving of our own country and the safety of loved ones at home."

Then he is interrupted by someone wanting him to sign a visitors' book. He simply records his name, number and unit.

"That's how I do that," he said.

Letters, Review page 2



## LIGHTING UP

## EXTREMES

Metres: London 12C (54°F)  
Coldest: Nairobi 5C (41°F)  
Hottest: Loch Glencoe 0.51 ins.  
Snowiest: Isles of Scilly, 8.0 hrs

For 24 hrs to 2pm Tuesday

Sea: Rises 7.3 in 12 hrs

Rises 6.8 in 12 hrs

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# 'The gunfire was phenomenal. There were 10 bullets embedded in the wall'

BY PAUL LASHMAR  
AND MARY BRAID

A BRITISH electrician, who escaped a gun attack on an Angolan mine, in which two Britons died and another was taken hostage, yesterday described how he hid under a blanket for almost 90 minutes while bullets ricocheted around his room.

Robin Butler, 52, said the attack by 50 gunmen on the Canadian owned DiamondWorks was launched at about 4.45am on Sunday. Private Angolan security guards employed by DiamondWorks, returned fire and a battle ensued.

"The Sun was just rising but there was a mist," said Mr Butler, whose family live in Gibraltar. "I was in the shower and about to have breakfast. When the shooting started I ran back to my room and hid on the floor under the blanket.

"The gunfire was phenomenal. It went on for an hour and a half. At the end I counted 10 bullets embedded in the wall."

"At two different points Unita soldiers looked into the room. Neither saw me, but the second stole a pair of Doc Marten boots. Later I looked out the window and could see my car on fire in the compound."

Mr Butler was discovered by two local miners who were taking advantage of the chaos to do a little looting.

They handed him over to two men wearing the uniform of the rebel Unita army who tried to force him to open the mine safe where diamonds are stored. When he told them he had no keys they tried to force it with steel bars.

When the rebels took flight amid new gunfire he refused to go with them. "They drove off. I hid in a container. Eventually a passing lorry took him to a nearby village, and safety."

Recovering in his hotel room in the Angolan capital Luanda yesterday he said he felt very sad for the families of those who were lost or missing. He had not seen any of the other Britons after the shooting began.

Alan Thomas, 49, from Liversedge, West Yorkshire, and a mine engineer; David Boule, 26, from Bracknell in Berkshire, were killed, and Jason Pope, 26, was kidnapped along with four other workers.

"Everybody scattered and made their way the best they could... Unfortunately some were killed trying to get away." Asked how terrified he had



From top: Jason Pope was kidnapped, but Alan Thomas and David Boule died in the attack. The resurgence of attacks by rebels means that mining areas are extremely dangerous. *Horriet Logan/Network*

been Mr Butler said: "I am a Christian, I trust in the Lord."

In addition to the two British victims, a Portuguese employee and three Angolans, including a representative of the state diamond company, also died and 18 Angolans were wounded.

Yesterday Angolan government troops were combing the jungles around the mine in the remote village of Yelwene, 600 km east of Luanda, for Mr Pope and four other hostages including two Filipino mechanics and a South African metallurgist. Yelwene is closed to the Congo border.

Rebels from Unita (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), who are slipping back into all-out war with the Angolan government just four years after they ended a 20-year civil war, were being blamed.

Mr Buckingham is part of a new generation of businessmen who provide foreign governments with military help and then benefit from mineral concessions.

He has had close connections with the leadership in



that the attackers were dressed, confusingly, in both Unita rebel uniforms and those of the Angolan army.

Last night, Bruce Walsham, the chief executive of DiamondWorks, and the British businessman Tony Buckingham, who is a major shareholder in the company, were flying to Yelwene.

The controversial Mr Buckingham is also "patron" to the London-based security consultants Sandline, which was at the centre of the arms-to-Sierra Leone affair that rocked the British government earlier this year.

Mr Buckingham is part of a new generation of businessmen who provide foreign governments with military help and then benefit from mineral concessions.

He has had close connections with the leadership in

Angola for more than a decade. In 1983, the government paid Executive Outcomes, a mercenary company associated with Mr Buckingham, to drive Unita forces out of key strategic areas.

In 1996, following negotiations, DiamondWorks obtained mining concessions from the government. Yelwene was the most recent concession.

Yesterday Richard Cornwell, of the South African Institute for Security Studies, said Unita was probably responsible for the murderous attack, but that the country was once so lawless that bandits or a renegade rebel group might also have carried it out.

DiamondWorks financed Unita's 20-year war with the MPLA (the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). The MPLA became the government in Angola after a

peace deal was finally brokered between it and Unita in 1994. As one observer put it: "the only game in town".

Following the peace accord

Unita withdrew from the mining producing areas in return for government promises of proper concessions. After the government reneged on its promise Unita renewed its guerrilla attacks.

The resurgence in Unita attacks has meant that these mining areas are extremely dangerous. Movement is difficult as the terrain is rough and the roads poor. Now Unita

and bandits make random attacks on vehicles using the roads. Mine staff and supplies mainly come and go by helicopter.

Foreign-owned diamond

companies operating in Unita-controlled areas are in increasing danger. When the rebels attack them, they hit the government's coffers, and undermine its ability to rule.

When the mine came under

attack the company apparently

received no help from a local

government army base for

some hours and the compound

was only secured when pri-

vate security reinforcements arrived.

A renewal of hostilities could be similarly protracted and just as destructive. There is no certainty that the government would win. In sending troops into neighbouring Congo, to prop up the government of President Laurent Kabila, the Angolan government has left itself over-stretched and vulner-

able situations overseas. Yesterday David Boule's father Thomas, 49, said his son had tried to reassure his parents that his work was safe.

"He would not take suicidal risks but he had a spirit of adventure," Mr Boule said of his son who gained a first-class honours degree in mining engineering at the University of Exeter in 1996.

But earnings abroad, especially in dangerous situations, are lucrative. Asked if he would return to Angola, Robin Butler said yesterday, without any hesitation, "I'll go back".

## Boycott found guilty of assaulting woman friend

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
AND GARY FINN

GEOFFREY BOYCOTT was found guilty of assault for a second time yesterday when a French judge decided that the former England opening batsman had made a brutal attack on his girlfriend in an Antibes hotel two years ago. He was fined £5,000 and given a three-month suspended jail sentence.

The cricketer-turned-commentator immediately appealed against the conviction. He also made a side-swipe against the court in Grasse, south-east France. "In the view of the way the trial was conducted," he said, "I suppose it is not a total surprise."

Speaking from Pakistan, where he was commenting on the Australian cricket tour for Rupert Murdoch's Star TV, he added: "When I went to see *Fatal Attraction* [a movie about a vengeful, jilted lover] I never thought it could happen to me."

While Boycott appears confident of his future, there are black holes where contracts used to be. He no longer works for the BBC, there are no deals with Sky, and his contract with Trans World International, which feeds cricket coverage to local networks such as India and Pakistan - where the Cult of Boycott is strongest - ended at close of play in Lahore yesterday. There was a further blow last night when *The Sun* announced that his column would no longer be featured in the newspaper.

The proceedings in Grasse last month were baffling, chaotic, often baffling, almost out of control, but most independent observers present - including the mated ranks of the



Margaret Moore outside court in Grasse yesterday PA

British press corps - thought the cricket legend got a reasonable hearing.

Perhaps too reasonable. Many of the 13 defence witnesses flown by Boycott to the south of France - at a cost estimated to have topped £200,000 - appeared to have nothing directly relevant to say.

The judge, Dominique Haumont-Daumas, indulged Boycott and his lawyer when they presented hours of muddled evidence from, among others, a psychiatrist who had never met the victim, Margaret Moore, 46. (He judged her, from television clips and conversations with a former husband, to be a "hysterical psychopath".)

There were also three British women who travelled to

France at Mr Boycott's expense to say they had suffered similar injuries to Ms Moore - two black eyes, severe bruising on the face - just by falling over in the street or at home. It was a circus, it was mostly a circus of Boycott's making.

After presiding over the 10-hour trial of "L'affaire Boycott", Judge Haumont-Daumas decided yesterday, in a delayed verdict, to deliver precisely the same judgment as another judge who conducted the original ten-minute trial in January. The first trial was set aside because the 55-year-old former cricketer failed to turn up, saying he had a more important engagement commenting on Test matches in South Africa.

Ms Moore, a divorcee with

two children, claimed Boycott punched her 20 times in the face, head and chest, holding her to the ground and staring at her with "wild, piercing and manic" eyes. Boycott insisted she fell over while throwing his shirt, shoes and underpants out of a hotel window during a quarrel.

In a seven-page written explanation of her verdict, the judge made it clear that Boycott's behaviour in court - telling Ms Moore's lawyer to "shut up" at one stage - had counted against him. "In the court, the accused didn't hesitate to interrupt rudely Mrs Moore's lawyer, tarnishing the image of the perfect gentleman which he brought his old friends and witnesses to testify to."

Judge Haumont-Daumas said the evidence presented to the court "did not support the theory of an accidental fall". She had decided that Ms Moore was the victim of "purposive blows".

Ms Moore, who returned to Grasse for the judgment, said she was delighted with the verdict. "I am the victim here. He beat me three times in all. I want to urge every person who has suffered violence to report it to the police." She was, once again, awarded the 1 franc (10.5 pence) symbolic damages that she had requested.

The Third French Test - Mr Boycott's appeal - is expected to be heard in the Provencal appeal court at Aix-en-Provence at a date to be fixed next year.

In the meantime, Ms Moore is not holding out much hope that the Yorkshireman will pay her the damages. "I don't think I'll get my franc because he is a little tight-fisted," she said. "If I get a cheque I'll frame it and if I don't I'll send him a writ."

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London mayor: Former GLC leader attacks the 'Daleks' of Millbank after party machine says candidates will be vetted

# Labour panel will scupper Livingstone

**KEN LIVINGSTONE** last night attacked the "Daleks" of Labour's Millbank headquarters after the party backed a selection system designed to kill off his chances of becoming the Mayor for London.

The Brent East MP, and former leader of the Greater London Council, went on the offensive as the London Labour Party voted for a vetting panel to draw up its shortlist of candidates for the job.

The 23-strong board of the London party was expected to approve the proposal that all party members could nominate themselves for the candidacy before going before the special panel. The panel would then draw up a shortlist of about five names that would be sent out to all members in the capital for a one member, one vote ballot.

Other leading contenders in the race for Labour's candidacy include the Sports minister, however party officials are reluctant to allow Mr Livingstone to take on the powerful new role and its £250k budget and are determined to block him standing for the election in 2000.

The new procedure effectively overrules a system approved this summer by London party activists to allow automatic shortlisting of anyone with the support of more than 10 constituencies. Such a system would almost certainly have guaranteed Mr Livingstone's name would appear on

By PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

any ballot paper, a risk that his opponents in the party leadership were not prepared to take.

Writing in today's *Independent*, Mr Livingstone blamed the party's faceless junior spin doctors for the "bandwagon of discontent" over selection rows in Wales, Scotland, the European Parliament and now London.

"Almost all of it would have been avoidable if it were not for the tactics of the Dalek faction of Labour's Millbank Tendency. We have got to get these nutters out," he said. "I wonder if there are some extremists who would rather see Labour lose these elections than fight them with an ideologically impure candidate. Just for their information, I for one will not be extinguished easily."

He said yesterday that he was not some "freak from the fringe" and pointed to his success in getting on to the NEC last year, gaining more rank and file votes

than the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson.

Joan Ryan, the MP for Enfield North and a member of the board, admitted that it was "possible" that the system could lead to the barring of Mr Livingstone. "Mr Livingstone is a candidate who's constant-

ly argued against the role ever existing and spent the last couple of years ensuring that we don't get to this point," she said.

Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the Commons, said that it was "nonsensical" to suggest that Labour was not inter-

ested in

block any one individual.

The spokesman added that the selection system proposed for London was entirely in keeping with similar procedures for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and even future MPs. More than 80 per cent of Londoners voted for

Peter Macdiarmid

the creation of a Mayor and Greater London Assembly in a referendum earlier this year.

A bill to set up the new authority is certain to be included in the Queen's Speech later this month.

I won't be exterminated,  
Review, page 3



Ken Livingstone is blaming Labour party spin doctors for the row over the selection of the Mayor for London

## NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

With effect from 11 November 1998 the following interest rates will apply on the savings accounts listed below.

60 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)	£50,000	7.30%	7.30%	6.80%	5.44%
	£25,000	6.95%	6.95%	6.55%	5.24%
	£10,000	6.70%	6.70%	6.20%	4.96%
	£5,000	6.45%	6.45%	5.75%	4.60%
	£500	5.70%	5.70%	5.20%	4.16%
	£1	5.55%	5.55%	5.00%	4.00%

30 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)	£50,000	6.30%	6.30%	5.90%	4.72%
	£25,000	6.05%	6.05%	5.65%	4.52%
	£10,000	5.55%	5.55%	5.25%	4.20%
	£5,000	5.30%	5.30%	4.95%	3.96%
	£1	5.25%	5.25%	4.50%	3.60%

30 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid monthly)	£50,000	6.15%	6.33%	5.70%	5.85%
	£25,000	5.90%	6.06%	5.45%	5.59%
	£10,000	5.40%	5.54%	5.05%	5.17%
	£5,000	5.15%	5.27%	4.75%	4.85%
	£1	5.10%	5.22%	4.30%	4.39%

INSTANT ACCESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)	£50,000	5.65%	5.65%	5.00%	5.00%
	£25,000	5.15%	5.15%	4.50%	4.50%
	£10,000	4.90%	4.90%	4.25%	4.25%
	£5,000	4.65%	4.65%	4.00%	3.20%
	£2,000	4.10%	4.10%	3.55%	2.84%
	£500	3.85%	3.85%	3.45%	2.76%
	£1	3.05%	3.05%	2.25%	1.80%

TESSA 2	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
	£6,601	8.25%	7.45%	6.63%	++
	£1	8.00%	7.28% ++	7.20%	6.63% ++

GOLD DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)	£50,000	3.90%	3.90%	3.05%	2.44%
	£25,000	3.65%	3.65%	2.90%	2.32%
	£10,000	3.40%	3.40%	2.65%	2.12%
	£5,000	2.90%	2.90%	2.25%	1.80%
	£2,000	2.65%	2.65%	2.00%	1.60%
	£500	2.40%	2.40%	1.70%	1.36%
	£1	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%

RAINBOW SAVINGS	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)		5.75%	5.75%	5.00%	4.00%

CASH CLUB	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid quarterly)		5.75%	5.88%	5.00%	4.09%

ROUTE 17	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid quarterly)		5.75%	5.68%	5.00%	4.09%

### ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

TESSA	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
		6.25%	5.73% ++	5.60%	5.17% ++

ROYAL REWARD	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)	£100,000	6.05%	4.05%	5.40%	4.32%
	£50,000	5.95%	3.95%	5.30%	4.24%
	£25,000	5.70%	3.70%	5.05%	4.04%
	£10,000	5.25%	3.25%	4.60%	3.68%
	£5,000	5.00%	3.00%	4.35%	3.48%
	£1	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%

ROYAL REWARD	Previous Gross\* Rate p.a.	Previous AER\*\* Rate p.a.	New Gross\* Rate p.a.</th



# Portillo forced to pledge his loyalty

THE TORY leader, William Hague, forced Michael Portillo to make a pledge of loyalty yesterday after the former cabinet minister was accused of plotting against him.

An angry Mr Hague telephoned Mr Portillo after he demanded the Tories give a stronger lead to the campaign against British entry to the single European currency. His intervention, in an article in *The Daily Telegraph*, was seen as a criticism of Mr Hague's leadership.

After Mr Hague's rebuke, Mr Portillo issued a statement praising his "bold leadership of the Conservative Party in general and in particular on European issues".

Mr Portillo said: "I am a strong supporter of all his policies, including those on Europe ... William Hague's leadership on this will bring about the revival of the party's fortunes

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Political Editor

and confirm his clear prime ministerial qualities."

The loyalty oath failed to stop another outbreak of Conservative feuding over Europe. Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, renewed his allegation that there was a plot by Eurosceptics to replace Mr Hague with Mr Portillo.

"I think William should be extremely concerned about what lies behind this Portillo agenda," said Mr Heseltine.

"It's quite obvious, when Michael comes back there is going to be a concerted campaign, in which newspapers like the *Telegraph* will play a significant part, in order to replace Hague with Portillo. It's as clear as any political event in the future ever can be."

Mr Heseltine warned that

the Tories were heading off in a false direction. "The party's support is haemorrhaging from people who left the party to vote either Labour or Liberal, both of whom had a pro-European policy stance," he said.

Although Mr Hague's allies were playing down the affair last night, they were privately seething. "Portillo's criticism is bizarre," said one.

"We have given priority to the single currency issue by halting party members on it. Others have criticised us for giving it too much priority."

Mr Portillo, who lost his Enfield Southgate seat in last year's general election, wants to return to the Commons in a by-election. But yesterday's controversy shows that his attempted comeback will be fraught with difficulty and strain his relations with the Tory leader.

Mr Portillo was rebuked by

Michael Ancram, the Conservative Party chairman, who insisted: "We are giving a clear lead on the single currency. What we are looking for is for others to follow that lead."

Rejecting the criticism of the Tory campaign on the euro, Mr Ancram said: "We will be looking to bring people from business in. We will try and form a broad coalition, and we will be at the forefront of the argument."

In his article, Mr Portillo said the Conservative Party was the only body with the political weight and experience to lead the many organisations opposing the single currency. "Until we provide that leadership, there is a real danger that the majority against joining EMU will be whittled away by Gordon Brown's inglorious, but corrosive, argument that British membership is inevitable."



Peter Young, a former City fund manager, leaving court yesterday after appearing on fraud charges. *Nicola Kurtz*

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## Fraud case man appears as woman

PETER YOUNG, the former star fund manager at the centre of one of the biggest City scandals in recent years, appeared in court yesterday dressed in open-toed high-heeled sandals, flesh-coloured tights, a beige patterned jumper and flowery skirt.

Mr Young, who also wore shoulder length hair, a black shoulder bag, bright red lipstick and glasses, was represented at the hearing by his barrister, Alex Cameron. The former fund manager with the City firm Morgan Grenfell was remanded with three others to appear for a transfer hearing on 15 March.

The four were charged last month on various counts of fraud, conspiracy to defraud and offences under the Financial Services Act 1986. The charges relate to a series of irregularities in various Morgan Grenfell unit trusts, which resulted in losses of £220m two years ago.

Also at the City of London magistrates' court yesterday were Norwegians Jan Helge Johnsen and Erik Langaker, both former employees of stockbrokers Fibab Nordic. Mr Langaker resides in Portugal but is frequently in London on business. Mr Johnsen lives in London.

As a condition of bail, both were required to have sureties of £10,000.

Mr Langaker was repre-

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

Financial Editor

sented by Stephen Pollard, the solicitor who acted for Nick Leeson, the former Barings trader.

After the discovery of the alleged irregularities Mr Young left the firm, which had to be bailed out with £180m by its parent company Deutsche Bank. Deutsche was also fined for City regulatory offences as a result of the affair.

Stewart Armer, who was also employed at the time by Morgan Grenfell, did not appear in court yesterday. Mr Armer, who was represented at the hearing by his lawyer Maurice Martin, is in Chile but will appear for the hearing on 15 March. He has had to put up a £10,000 guarantee.

Mr Young, whose address was not disclosed in court, and his alleged conspirators are accused of setting up a web of Luxembourg-based companies to conceal various investments in high-risk companies from the auditors, trustees and regulators of a number of funds that Mr Young managed.

According to the charges, Mr Young and Mr Armer used the elaborate structure of Luxembourg companies to get around restrictions on the nature and size of the investments that the funds, which were aimed at ordinary retail investors, were able to hold.

## Rotherham opts in with its own single currency

BY ESTHER LEACH

"WHERE THERE'S euros, there's brass is not yet a South Yorkshire dictum but it will be one day," said Denis MacShane, the Labour MP for Rotherham. His constituency yesterday provided the launchpad of the Rotherham euro - a precursor to the European currency that comes into being early next century.

The hundreds of euro banknotes given away in the town centre were, in fact, 70p shopping vouchers which couldn't buy much except time in a multi-storey car park and a discount on anything over £10 at a number of shops.

But, said Mr MacShane, it was a way of getting people talking about the euro.

The majority of European Union countries will use the euro to replace their national currencies from January 1999. It will be in use on the financial markets although coins and notes will not be issued until January 2002.

Mr MacShane's idea is backed by Rotherham's business community. As from 1 January British Steel, the town's biggest employer, starts invoicing and paying customers in Europe in euros.

In Rotherham, Gillian Riley,



The Rotherham euro

40, said: "The real euro has got to be simpler, we'll all be able to use the same currency in everything."

Training specialist Peter Walker, 48, wanted to show the Rotherham euro to colleagues in Belgium. "They will be interested to know what we are doing and really in the long run the euro will be saving although it will cost something to make the change."

Cafe owner Michael Meares, 35, said: "I was going to offer 70p off a meal if a customer presented a Rotherham euro but decided to give free tea or coffee instead because I know it would work. It will be a while before the idea of a euro sinks in with the people of Rotherham. They don't like change and they are very careful with their money."

# Dalglish heads team bidding for Celtic

BY PAUL McCANN

**KENNY DALGLISH** and the rock star Jim Kerr are about to join the ranks of millionaires who have let their hearts rule their wallets after they announced an £80m bid for Glasgow Celtic yesterday.

One of Kerr's greatest regrets when his band, Simple Minds, played gigs in Glasgow, was that safety rules meant it had to play at Ibrox stadium, the home of his team's greatest rivals, Rangers.

The two want to take over from Fergus McCann, a Celtic fan ruled less by his heart than his head, who returned from Canada to sell out the team four and a half years ago. The interest of the consortium caused the team's share price to increase by a third yesterday.

Dalglish was raised a Rangers fan, but signed for Celtic as a schoolboy in 1968 and became one of its leading goalscorers, playing 324 games as well as holding the national record for Scottish caps.

His transfer to Liverpool in 1977 for a national transfer record of £400,000 broke a million Celtic hearts and his return as manager has been whispered about fondly during the years of Rangers' domination of Scottish football.

Now he is seen as the leader of a second revolution at Celtic. Despite rebuilding Celtic Park as Britain's biggest club stadium and putting an end to Rangers' nine-year grip on the Scottish Premier Division, Mr McCann, the chairman, is unpopular with the fans.

The diminutive Scotsman has a habit of interfering in the football side of the club and driving out successful players and managers. Wim Jansen, the manager who took Celtic to their first victory in the Premier League for 10 years last year, left the team at the end of the season because he did not get on with the chairman and his football adviser, Jock Brown.

Worse, Mr McCann is perceived by the fans as parsimo-



Simple Minds singer Jim Kerr (left) and Kenny Dalglish will add their own money to the consortium bid for Celtic

John Voss & PA

nious when compared with the largesse Rangers has used to attract world-class players.

The combination of Dalglish and Kerr was welcomed by Celtic fans yesterday despite the fact that Dalglish began life as a Rangers fan himself and was recently linked as a consultant to a company owned by David Murray, chairman of Rangers.

Dalglish and Kerr are planning to add their own money to backing from the city to the bid and Dalglish is expected to take a role in the football side of the club. Fans have also been tempted by the consortium talking up a £10m buying fund for players if they take control.

Mr McCann, who owns 51 per cent of the stock, plans to sell his interest and return to

Canada after the completion next March of a "five-year plan" to transform the club.

However, he has said he wants to sell to existing shareholders and season-ticket holders. He said yesterday that there had been an approach

from Dalglish and Kerr, but the bid seemed to undervalue the club. Nevertheless, Dalglish's emotional links to the team could help swing shareholding fans behind his consortium in any future fight for the club.

Fans immediately welcomed

news of the bid. Peter Rafferty, who heads the Affiliation of Registered Celtic Supporters' Clubs, reckons it would be an overdue second Parkhead revolution.

He said: "My immediate re-

action to this news is very, very favourable. It is one of the most positive things I have heard about Celtic in the past five years. Kenny Dalglish should be able to attract major players to the club and put us back where we belong."

Fans welcome, page 30

## I LIKED IT SO MUCH I BOUGHT THE COMPANY

**PETER WHEELER:** In 1981 Mr Wheeler was a chemical engineer who owned a TVR, an exclusive high-powered British sports car. That year he became the struggling company's saviour when he bought it. His instincts have been successful and the company is in profit. Sales this year will be £2,000, compared with 170 the year he took over.

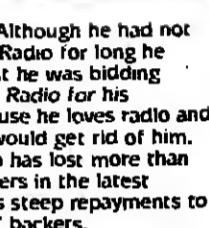


**TONY & RIDLEY SCOTT:** The Geordie directors of *Thelma & Louise* and *Top Gun* spent £1.2m buying Shepperton studios in 1995. Before moving to Hollywood they used Shepperton hundreds of times and Ridley (pictured) made *Alien*. They spent £8.5m making it the top post-production facility outside the US.



**Victor Kiam:** Recorded the line about liking the Remington shaver so much that he bought the company. It is credited with helping prop the struggling firm he bought in 1978 to one with half the US market for electric razors in five years. He has bought into a company that makes the world's smallest hair dryer and Ronson, the ailing lighter company.

**CHRIS EVANS:** Although he had not been at Virgin Radio for long, he made clear that he was bidding against Capital Radio for his employer because he loves radio and knew Capital would get rid of him. But the station has lost more than 300,000 listeners in the latest ratings and has steep repayments to make to Evans' backers.



## Stone witness is arrested

BY LOUISE JURY

THE WITNESS in the Michael Stone murder trial who claimed he lied in court under oath has been arrested, police said yesterday.

Barry Thompson was arrested in Basildon, Essex, on Monday two weeks after he told *The Mirror* that his testimony was "a pack of lies".

Stone, 38, of Gillingham, Kent, was convicted last month of murdering Dr Lin Russell, 45, and her daughter, Megan, six. He was also convicted of the attempted murder of Josie Russell, now 11.

Mr Thompson told Maidstone Crown Court details of a conversation he had with Stone when they were both in prison. But Mr Thompson contacted the press the day after the jury found Stone guilty, saying he wanted to retract the key part of this statement.

A Kent police spokesman said yesterday Mr Thompson

had been sought for questioning over the matter but had only been found this week. Hampshire police, a force unconnected with the Russell murder investigations, have now been asked by Kent to take over an inquiry into the allegations.

Mr Thompson has been released on bail and will be questioned at a later date.

Kent police said they were also "taking seriously" allegations at the weekend that other witnesses in the trial, Lawrence Calder and Shereen Batt, had been threatened and told to withdraw their evidence.

Stone, who had protested his innocence, has lodged an appeal against his convictions. In a letter to *The Mirror* published yesterday, he asked: "What they (the police) gonna do if they ever get an idea on who did kill the Russell family?"

### IN BRIEF

#### Boy in bonfire explosion dies

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy who suffered 95 per cent burns to his body in a bonfire explosion five days ago died yesterday. Allan Spiers had been in a critical condition in Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow, after the accident in his home village of Law, Lanarkshire.

#### Diana fund snubs mine clearance

LANDMINE CLEARANCE charities will receive no cash from the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, it was revealed yesterday. The £25m fund has confirmed that £1m set aside for the landmine cause in March this year will go towards aid for victims rather than the disposal of the weapons.

#### Officers face harassment inquiry

TWO POLICEMEN have been suspended and an inquiry launched after claims that they sexually harassed female colleagues. Detective Inspector Graham Lynn and Inspector Cameron McIntosh were taken off duty by Northumbria Police after complaints.

#### Clegg case soldiers 'tried to help'

SOLDIERS on patrol with Lee Clegg in the night he is accused of murdering a Belfast joyrider yesterday described how they tried to save the teenager. They were giving evidence on the second day of Mr Clegg's trial.

#### Mobile phones need no warning

MOBILE PHONES need not carry health warnings, Aberavon magistrates said yesterday. The decision follows a hearing in which Roger Coghill, a scientist, claimed that mobile phones pose a health hazard to their users.

#### Meteor storm threatens satellites

FLIGHT CONTROLLERS are preparing to protect satellites from the Leonid meteor storm on 17 November. Thousands of particles will hurtle towards the atmosphere at 50 miles per second, threatening to sandblast spacecraft.

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Education: New contracts will demand a written promise from pupil's family on assignments and good conduct

# Parents asked to sign pledge on homework

ALL PARENTS will be asked to sign agreements promising to ensure that their children do their homework and behave properly, the Government said yesterday.

Children as young as five may also sign up to pledges to be "friendly and helpful" in home-school agreements that come into force next September. Schools will be compelled by law to draw up documents, which will spell out for the first time what they expect of parents and what parents should expect of them - for example, a good standard of education.

Neither side will have legal redress if they believe the other has reneged on the bargain. Nor will parents be compelled to sign. Ministers say the point of agreements is to reinforce ties between home and school, a vital part of raising standards. Critics argue that those parents whom schools are most anxious to involve in their children's education will be the least likely to sign.

Estelle Morris, the School Standards minister, said: "For too long the assumption has been that some parents don't want to support their children at school. That is patronising. Some parents may find it more difficult but the challenge to schools is to present the policy in a way which makes it easy for parents to play their part."

In existing agreements, parents promise to turn up to parents' evenings, support

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

homework and ensure children are at school on time with the right equipment. Schools promise "to achieve high standards of work and behaviour" and care for pupils' "safety and happiness".

Children will be encouraged

to sign where governors consider that they are mature enough.

Charles Clarke, the Schools minister, said some schools already encouraged pupils aged five and six to sign anti-bullying policies.

"The more likely that children are to commit themselves to a particular approach, the more likely it is to work effectively," he said.

Ministers also issued guidance on homework which should start with about 10 minutes of reading or number work when children start school, reaching 30 minutes a day for those aged 9 to 11. From the start of secondary school, pupils should do as much as 90 minutes a day, rising to two-and-a-half hours a day for 16-year-olds.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, announced an extra £20m in government funding for out-of-school clubs for those who find it difficult to study at home. The clubs will also offer out-of-school activities in sport, art, music and drama.

Theresa May, the shadow schools minister, said: "In their obsession with imposing rules,

ministers have really gone over the top." She added: "Now five-year-olds will be expected to do homework each day ... What ever happened to childhood?"

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said it supported partnership between schools and parents but the requirement for agreements would create "a mountainous pile of bureaucracy involving as many as 16 million pieces of paper".

Leading article,  
Review page 3

The government ideal sees the child being encouraged to do homework by the parent - but at what age should they start? John Lawrence



case  
appears  
man

ASHTON-ON-RIBBLE HIGH SCHOOL

**AGREEMENT**

1. The Parents

We shall try to:

- see that my child goes to school regularly, on time and properly supported;
- let the School know about any concerns or problems that might affect my child's work or behaviour;
- support the School's policies and guidelines for behaviour;
- support my child in homework and other opportunities for home learning;
- attend Parents' Evening and discussions about my child's progress;
- get to know about my child's life at School.

2. The School will

- contact Parents if there is a problem with attendance, punctuality or equipment;
- let Parents know about any concerns or problems that affect their child's work behaviour;
- send home regular assessments and an annual Record of Achievement;
- set, mark and monitor homework and provide facilities for the children to do homework in School;
- arrange Parents' Evening during which progress will be discussed;
- keep Parents informed about School activities through regular letters home, Newsheets and notices about special events.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent)  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher)

## Ten hours study, but not for all

BY JUDITH JUDD

THERE ARE still wide variations in the amount of homework given to pupils, according to new findings in a report from the Office for Standards in Education.

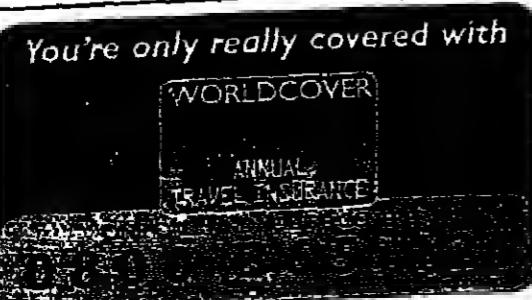
Some children in reception classes are doing about 20 minutes each night, double the amount recommended by the Government. Others are doing scarcely any.

And while some 11-year-olds sit at their books in the evening for more than two hours a week, a few are getting away with less than half an hour. In secondary schools, most are doing more than 10 hours a week but a few make do with five hours.

The findings are based on a survey of 227 primary and 141 secondary schools in the autumn term last year. Inspectors have complained for years about big differences in the amount and quality of homework. On the evidence of the

**pledge** (promise) is an assurance given by one person to another agreeing or guaranteeing to do something

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Race relations: Study examines police strategies while armed forces seek ways to eliminate discrimination in the ranks

# F Police 'out of touch with racial groups'

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THE POLICE are seen as racist and out of touch by many young people and ethnic minority groups, according to a Home Office study published yesterday.

Officers are also accused of working on crude stereotypes when dealing with the young, Afro-Caribbean and Asian people and being superior when handling cases involving the working class.

However, citizens become more sympathetic and supportive of the police as they grow older and richer.

Young people were particularly influenced by negative experiences with the police while on the street. Young black and Asian groups complained about the police being ignorant of their cultures and using negative and outdated stereotypes.

Researchers identified 'key social groups for policing' and questioned small focus groups

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

representing different ages, sexes, economic backgrounds and ethnicity.

Paul Boateng, a Home Office minister, said: "Negative perceptions of the police service, particularly amongst young people and ethnic minorities, are a cause for concern. Too often the police are seen as distant, out of touch and unsympathetic to the needs of these groups."

"This presents us all with a challenge - effective policing requires strong working relations with all sections of society regardless of age or race."

The study identified three distinct approaches to policing that are supported by different social groups. Young people and working-class adults want more proactive and focused policing, such as anti-mugging strategies. They were in favour of undercover and cover action by the police.

The use of visible patrolling as a means of reassurance was attractive for middle-aged middle-class adults, older men and ethnic minority groups, although they were easily persuaded that proactive policing was more effective.

Older women and retired people believe visible "beat bobbies" were not just a means of reassurance, but also reduced crime and made them feel better protected.

The researchers concluded that the police "should regard the public not as a single entity, but as a number of separate and distinct communities. This would involve a form of 'segmented' policing; different styles, but not different standards, of policing".

■ *Public Expectations and Perceptions of Policing* is available by faxing 0171 273 4001.

## PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLICE:

Young people aged 14 to 25

would be dismissive of their concerns. Police 'lack the inside track'.

Working class people aged 25 to 45

Find police arrogant and with little interest in details of crime

question studies. Police hamfisted in trying to win their co-operation.

Middle aged adults and professional 25 to 45 year olds

trust and respect the police, support Neighbourhood Watch and

CCTV. Some older adults find police have little interest in them.

Speake Retired people aged over 60

sympathetic and supportive, but criticise some young officers as

arrogant and chief constables for closing stations. Believe officers 'are

Mandates make Bi

Pakistani young men

driven so find police ignorant of cultural and religious differences. Believe

els or pr police target them as different, based on outdated stereotypes.

when cor

Older Indian women

See police as distant, 'based in cars, out of touch', unconcerned and

create of

if w Afro Caribbean women aged 14 to 45

knowledg

target younger blacks, and the force is 'rife with racism'. Complaints

ence has procedure cannot be relied upon.

best practice

Find police 'not streetwise' or involved. Disappointed with tendency to

see. But merely wait and react. Things now worse than in the past.



Soldiers from the Household Cavalry talking to shoppers during their recruitment drive in Brixton, south London, yesterday Andrew Buurman

## How we stamped out prejudice in our forces – by Colin Powell

BY CLARE GARNER

GENERAL Colin Powell, the distinguished Gulf War military chief, told leaders of the British Armed Forces yesterday that they must be "vicious" in eradicating racism within their ranks.

The black former United States Chief of Defense Staff told a conference in London that winning the "war on racism" would depend on good leadership. "Our experience is that this is leaders' business," he said.

"It is not policies or programmes which will get you to your goal, it will be the commanders and leaders who take this on as a central mission."

Speaking to 100 delegates, in-



George Robertson and General Colin Powell PA

pamby, airy fairy to the average person who hasn't got a job. It conjures up colonial days to me. The British empire, fascism, right-wingism. It's not progress. It's more retro-Britain."

Six-year-old Oliver James tried on a soldier's helmet. His father, Neville, 41, was reluctant to pay any attention to troops, but had been persuaded by his son. "Would you like to ride horses or drive tanks?" asked Mr James, entering into the spirit of the occasion. But deep down, he felt uneasy. "I would not encourage any of my kids to join the Army until the infrastructure had changed," he said.

Trooper Crowther, 19, was encouraged by their reception.

"I'd say it's quite a breakthrough, really," he said. "It's something that's been a long time coming. They've been planning it, but they weren't sure about the public reaction."

However, it was going to take more than one parade in Brixton to convince Mr James. "There's a cynical side to me which says, 'Do they really mean this or is it just a publicity stunt?'"

come in the Armed Forces.

"The idea is to show people that we are the same as anyone else: we're just doing a job and we're not totally detached from what's going on," said Captain Rick Manning. "We've come down here to show people we're a caring, sharing Army."

Few people bothered to stop and admire the horses, as the Household Cavalry had hoped. "The Household Guards, what

they doing round here?" said

one man, pausing on the steps of the public library. On learning the purpose of the parade, he shrugged: "All the black people will be able to do if they join is clear up the horse shit."

Semai Francis, a writer in his early forties, propped himself up against the wall. "The Horse Guards trying to recruit down here is a waste of time."

"This is all very mamby

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14/11/98 150



Time appears to weigh heavily for former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the Bundestag yesterday. Mr Kohl was pictured as his successor, Gerhard Schröder, made his inaugural address to parliament. Thomas Kohler EPA

## Schroder outlines his 'New Centre'

CHANCELLOR GERHARD Schröder ushered in his "Republique of the New Centre" yesterday, pledging to modernise German society and cut unemployment in the coming four years of his reign.

But his "government declaration" itemising the programme of the Social Democrat-Green coalition, was immediately attacked by the opposition as lacking substance, and drew broad criticism for its

By IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

paucity of vision. "We have said that we do not want to do everything differently, but many things better," Mr Schröder reminded parliament. Proving to be a man of his word, the Chancellor spoke for two hours about the minor improvements he had in mind.

He evoked the New Centre, a Schröderite variation on the

Third Way theme, promising to liberate Germans' entrepreneurial spirit, thus creating the conditions for an economic renaissance. Taxpayers would be receiving DM15bn (US\$3bn) back from the state by 2002, DM5bn more than originally envisaged.

Nevertheless, business continues to be unimpressed by the pro-business gestures of the new government. A new ecology tax has been roundly con-

demned by industry, and economists are unconvinced by promises of a cut in long-term unemployment.

The new administration hopes to rekindle the "alliance for jobs" plan first proposed by a trade union leader two years ago. The idea is for employers and employees to thrash out a deal, bringing down labour costs while arresting the trend of mass lay-offs.

The initiative will be

launched before the end of the year.

The opposition had heard it all before, and wanted more specifics. "Showtime is over," shouted Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democrats' new leader, succeeding Helmut Kohl. "What's needed now is substance."

But Mr Schröder has always been stronger on style, and refused to heed his opponent's advice. So he dwelt on the future

instead, the new beginning represented by the move to Berlin. The New Centre, he assured Germans, would be perfectly at home in the former capital of the Reich.

"To some people, Berlin still sounds too Prussian, too authoritarian, too centralised," Mr Schröder said. "Our totally non-aggressive vision of a Republic of the New Centre stands as the exact opposite of this."

lennium dome in the new capital of Cool Germany.

Betraying his priorities, Mr Schröder devoted little time to his country's relationship with the outside world. He paid lip-service to the independence of the European Central Bank. In foreign affairs, he praised the importance of the transatlantic link and grumbled about Germany's contributions to the European Union budget, but gave few details.

## Nato eye in the sky keeps Kosovo safe

UNITED STATES Air Force officers are flying unmanned Predator spy planes from a former Warsaw Pact airbase in Hungary to feed a stream of live video military intelligence to the Pentagon from the battlefields of Kosovo.

Although satellites and manned spy planes also feed intelligence back to Washington and Nato command, the Predators, based at Tassar, are the sole source of real-time video for Nato's Operation Eagle Eye.

"We're the only ones that can get full motion video—that's our key," said Sergeant Leo Glownka. "From five to ten miles away I can see people and what they are doing."

From an altitude of between 15,000 and 20,000 feet the camera in the 27ft-long aircraft zoomed in on a Hungarian village to show a male pedestrian

By ADAM LEBOR  
in Tassar, Hungary

an wearing a beige coat and carrying a white plastic bag.

The \$3.4m (52.1m) spy-planes are Nato's answer to threats by Serb nationalist leaders to down Western airplanes flying over Kosovo. They are a mainstay of Operation Eagle Eye, which monitors Serb combatants with the UN resolutions that demand a military pull-back from Kosovo.

Each Predator has a two-man team—the pilot and the sensor operator, who controls the cameras and the flow of information. The pilot uses computer controls to adjust the aircraft's speed, altitude and direction as it penetrates deep into hostile territory. The information is bounced by satellite to Molesworth airbase in

Britain, and sent on to the Pentagon.

The Predators cannot defend themselves if they come under fire, relying on the skill of the pilot back at base. But the next generation of unmanned planes is likely to have weapons attached.

Operation Eagle Eye and the possibility of Nato intervention in neighbouring Serbia have highlighted the complications of expanding the alliance into post-communist eastern Europe.

C-130 transporter planes take off from Tassar on logistics and supply missions to the S-FOR peace-keeping troops in Bosnia, and if Nato ever launched large-scale intervention in Kosovo, Tassar would be a vital staging post for the alliance. With the Czech Republic and Poland, Hungary is set to join Nato next April.

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A man inspects a model of 'Homo erectus pekinensis', or Peking Man, on display south of the Chinese capital Peking Man, which was discovered in China, is believed to have lived 300,000 years ago. *Natalie Behring*

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# Russia 'suffering a silent disaster'

BY PHIL REEVES  
AND HELEN WOMACK  
in Moscow

FIVE SHIPS taking supplies to beleaguered Russians in the Far East have been abandoned after getting stuck in ice amid an increasingly frantic battle to avert a disastrous winter in Russia's remote reaches.

Thousands of people have been evacuated from communities in the frozen east and north because of a lack of fuel and food, while others have voluntarily fled hundreds of miles to the nearest towns as Arctic weather closes in.

The stranded ships – one carrying 100 tons of much-needed diesel fuel – are just one setback in a crisis caused by Russia's economic meltdown but compounded by a bad harvest, floods, drought, falling imports and fracturing supply lines.

The Red Cross says this winter may be the worst in a generation for millions of Russians, and is appealing for the West not to turn its back. Still two-thirds short of a \$15m appeal for Russia, it has warned that the country is suffering a "silent disaster".

Rural Russians are renowned for their survival skills, honed over decades of shortages and miserable weather. But Caroline



Hurford, spokesman for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Moscow, said: "This winter, you will see on your television screens scenes of absolute poverty."

Despite assurances from the Russian government that the situation is under control, this is far from the only warning voice. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation yesterday unveiled a report

saying that – although national shortages of basic foodstuffs were not expected – some Russians could face hardship in the coming months caused by a sharp decline in the output of wheat, barley, potatoes and other crops. "The most vulnerable socio-economic groups – pensioners, orphans, the unemployed and households de-

pendent on public salaries, can expect a rough winter," it said.

The Russian authorities want impoverished northern regions to be the main focus of two aid deals with the West, not least because climatic conditions prevent the population from growing their own food.

Moscow signed a \$625m (238m) agreement last week

with the United States for 3.1 million tons of food. Yesterday,

a tentative deal was reached with the European Union in which Russia will buy \$480m of food and receive up to \$14m of

EU humanitarian aid.

But the government faces an enormous task if it is to ensure that the aid – or profits from it – reaches areas of genuine need, and is not intercepted by criminal organisations or corrupt officials. Supervising sup-

ply lines that stretch across more than 6,000 miles has often proved impossible for Russia's federal and regional authorities.

The needy areas – often the legacy of Stalin's drive to fuel his industrial empire with minerals and gold – are dotted around an enormous sweep of land. They stretch from the far north-west across northern Siberia's Arctic edge to Russia's eastern coast on the Bering Sea, only a few hundred miles from Alaska.

Among the worst areas are in the Chukotka region, where inhabitants of Arctic villages have begun to abandon their homes to move to larger settlements because of fuel and food shortages.

In one, Mys Shmidtia – where temperatures fall to minus 55C – there are reportedly only two centrally heated buildings, a school and a hospital. The authorities say they have evacuated hundreds of people, although others have been flooding in from even more desolate communities.

Meanwhile, the five abandoned vessels have been left in an ice-bound river mouth on the Kamchatka peninsula after repeated efforts failed to blast them free. The Russian Ministry of Emergencies plans to send trucks to off-load the diesel once the ice becomes thick enough.

## IN BRIEF

### Clinton considers attack on Iraq

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton met senior Pentagon officials yesterday to explore options for a possible military attack on Iraq. The White House said President Saddam Hussein must "reverse course and allow full co-operation" with UN arms inspectors. Mr Clinton also discussed diplomatic options, a senior administration official said.

### Shell base in Lagos under guard

EMPLOYEES STAYED away and armed police guarded the Lagos headquarters of Royal Dutch/Shell's Nigerian oil producing unit yesterday, the anniversary of the 1995 hanging of nine Ogoni activists who had campaigned against Shell for its alleged pollution.

### Civilians flee Sierra Leone battle

HUNDREDS OF civilians have fled their homes in south-eastern Sierra Leone to avoid fighting between rebel forces and a pro-government militia. Fighting began on Monday and continued in Tonga Field, 220 miles east of Freetown.

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## HURRICANE MITCH

# Army starts to restore bridges

UNITED STATES army engineers - the so-called Construction Battalion - began building pontoon bridges yesterday and mending gaps in others throughout Honduras, a nation divided into isolated zones by the floods and landslides that followed Hurricane Mitch.

Linking up Honduran roads is the first phase of a National Reconstruction Plan likely to take several years. The country remains in almost a state of siege with schools and colleges closed until next year and most crops wiped out. It will take three years to get the vital banana crop, the country's mainstay export, back anywhere near normal.

University students were ordered yesterday to do 40 hours of obligatory clean-up work a week to qualify for their degrees. Many had already appeared in the streets as volunteers, along with parties of volunteer workers who march to stricken zones carrying the Honduran flag and, in perfect formation, wield their shovels like rifles and sing the national anthem.

Mexican engineers brought in a giant construction crew in an attempt to clear an accidental "dyke" blocking the River Choluteca which runs through the capital, Tegucigalpa. The dyke was formed by debris, including rubble from demolished houses, vehicles, parts of bridges and bodies swept downriver by torrential

BY PHIL DAVISON  
in Tegucigalpa

floods 10 days ago. Huge rocks slid down from nearby hills into the river, near the city centre.

The dyke is holding the river back, building up pressure and leaving the low-lying park areas of the city still under 203 feet of water. Only the parapets of large bridges, almost all broken, are visible above the surface of the stagnant, dark-brown water, under which hundreds, even thousands of bodies could be trapped.

The authorities are afraid to dynamite the dyke in case a new surge of water wipes out riverside shanty dwellings further downstream.

The country's National Election Council will hold a census as soon as possible in an attempt to confirm death figures, estimated at around 6,500 in Honduras, with 11,000 people missing, many in the capital.

Bodies still being found are stored in refrigerated container lorries holding 100 bodies each before being dumped in mass graves of up to 25.

The city yesterday decided to name Vilma de Castellanos, widow of the mayor who died in a helicopter crash during rescue efforts, as her late husband's replacement, without an election, because of his popularity and widespread sympathy for her.

The Mayor, Cesar de Castellanos, was affectionately known as El Gordito (Fatty).



An improvised ferry service crosses the Rio Humaya, replacing a destroyed bridge serving isolated villages in Honduras

Relief group appeals for cash

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

LEADING BRITISH agencies launched a national public appeal last night for aid for the Central American countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch, which has killed 11,000 people and left at least as many missing, presumed drowned.

The Disaster Emergency Committee, comprising 13 relief agencies, said it was already funding £5m of relief programmes from existing resources.

But the sheer scale of Mitch, the worst natural calamity to hit the region this century, was beyond the agencies' ability to cope. Funds raised by The Independent appeal launched last week are being sent directly to the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Julian Filochowski of the Catholic agency Cafod, who was in the region when the hurricane struck, said 2 million people in Honduras alone - about a third of the population - had been made homeless. The hardest hit have been the poorest in shanty towns.

"We're saying, 'Give as much as you can, as fast as you can,'" said Mike Whitlam, head of the British Red Cross. "And then we must keep the momentum going for weeks, right through into reconstruction."

## Ecology crisis in Nicaragua

BY FILADELFO ALEMAN  
in Managua, Nicaragua

HURRICANE MITCH has caused an "ecological disaster" in the delicate forests and mangrove swamps of western Nicaragua, according to an environmental group.

The fragile ecosystems in five provinces were ripped apart by the same storm that killed an estimated 10,000 people in Central America.

"We lost biological and cultural riches [and] medicine," said the Humboldt Centre, a non-government organisation sponsored by German and British environmental groups.

It added that some communities had lost food supplies; and in some areas, the hurricane damage was irreversible.

"Wildlife, especially iguanas, were seriously impacted by the destruction of the habitat that serves for refuge, food and reproduction," the group said.

The hardest-hit areas were the basins of the Coco and Matagalpa rivers and the Lagoon of Managua.

The rainfall from Hurricane Mitch was 15 times heavier than normal, eroding hillsides and stripping leaves from trees. The rushing water also spread

pesticides and poisonous chemicals from gold mines over wide areas, the centre said. The chemicals affected the mangrove swamps and great numbers of sea creatures, especially shrimp, were expected to die in the coming weeks.

The disappearance of some species will also allow the invasion of other, harmful, types such as rats and insects that could spread disease.

The Humboldt Centre appealed for international aid to try to save what was left but said it will take at least 35 years to recover some of the affected areas.

For now, relief efforts on the Coco River are concentrated on saving the native Miskito communities. About 40,000 Miskitos lost their harvests and 80 per cent saw their homes destroyed, Congressman Steadman Fagot told a Mexican government news agency.

British ships and helicopters have tried to bring food to hamlets and rescue villagers stranded by waters that rose 50 feet.

THE INDEPENDENT



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# F Protests mar Indonesia's fresh start

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IN AN atmosphere of political tension and amid sporadic outbreaks of violence, the Indonesian parliament met yesterday for a special sitting intended to prepare the way for democratic elections and dismantling the oppressive apparatus of former President Suharto.

A senior member of Indonesia's ruling party said that the country's armed forces must give up the unelected parliamentary seats that they have held for the past 30 years. But the continuing power of the military was obvious as thousands of troops surrounded the national parliament building.

The 1,000 members of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) were meeting for the first time since last May when riots and demonstrations forced Mr Suharto to resign after 32 years in power. In several parts of Jakarta there were outbreaks of scuffling and stone-throwing, as crowds of angry protesters confronted bands of civilian thugs, tens of thousands of whom have been allowed into Jakarta to "keep order" during the four-day parliamentary session.

Some 30,000 troops have been deployed, supported by warships and a submarine off the coast, in the biggest show of military force since May. But even as the military was flexing its muscles, MPR legislators were promising to reduce the armed forces'

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY AND DIARMID O'SULLIVAN  
in Jakarta

its members, set its agenda and used it to legitimise a thinly disguised dictatorship.

"The problem with Indonesia today," as *The Jakarta Post* put it in an editorial this week, "is that it is still depends on the MPR, a body filled with reactionary advocates of the *status quo* who do not represent the majority."

But many MPR members have spent the past six months busily distancing themselves from the old regime. "We are fully aware that our credibility is now down in the gutter," added Mr Darusman. "This has forced us to go all out to embrace the people's aspirations."



A soldier pushing back protesters after they stoned vigilante youths guarding Proclamation Park in Jakarta yesterday

Mojo Vision

# Hard-liners defy Arafat peace policy

BY ROBERT FISK  
in Beirut

when the Israelis have given us back our land."

Of course, this is not the only reason for the new show of "unity" by Mr Arafat's enemies, among them George Habash of the PFLP and Nayef Hawatmeh of the DFLP.

The annulment of this clause - which Mr Arafat had already declared null and void in letters to the Israeli leadership more than two years ago - was a key element in the Wye memorandum, which was supposed to lead to a small Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

On the face of it, the 10 Palestinian groups with offices in Syria - including Hamas and the Islamic Jihad movement - have little chance of influencing the PNC.

"It used to be 120 members," an official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said in Beirut yesterday. "But then Arafat stuffed it with his cronies and now we think there are over 700 members."

"Last time there was a meeting, his chauffeur and bodyguard were standing there with their hands up, voting for Arafat's decisions. We need more than a third of the PNC to veto an annulment."

But the DFLP with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Hamas and Islamic Jihad are the four groups in Damascus that have a following within the occupied territory and could, theoretically, cause the PNC to reject the Wye memorandum's call for the "destruction-of-Israel" clause to be deleted. In reality, most of these groups know that - in the event of a real peace - the clause would have to go. But why, they are appealing to Palestinians in the occupied territories, should it go now?

A PFLP official was very specific yesterday. "The Israelis demanded - and Arafat accepted - that the charter should be amended," he said. "But we are being asked to delete the charter's call for the destruction of the state of Israel when Israel insists that the Palestinians should not even have a state at all. If we are going to bargain over the charter, changes should be made at the end -

and the value fee and repay

Even the Palestinian scholar Edward Said is calling for Palestinians to deter people from attending the PNC meeting that is intended to cancel part of the charter.

Of course, given the fact that Wye has not even begun to be implemented, there are Palestinians who say that the opposition groups in Damascus do not need to campaign against Mr Arafat any more - saying the whole "peace process" lies in tatters anyway.



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# US starts banana war with Europe

**THE SIMMERING** dispute between the United States and Europe over banana imports exploded into open conflict yesterday as America threatened to start a trade war.

In a significant development, after months of tension, Washington proposed sanctions against a range of European products, expected to include Scotch whisky and French wine and cheeses.

Brussels warned it would pursue the US through the World Trade Organisation, where it would appeal for compensation against any action, and demand the right to impose comparable sanctions.

Although extra duties on European goods could not be imposed for four months, EU officials are alarmed that the American action indicates a protectionist response to the global economic downturn.

The long-running dispute

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Brussels

involves the favoured nation status, granted by Europe under an international treaty, to banana imports from 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, (ACP) most of which are former European colonies.

Europe points out that, without special help, small producers will be undercut by the big mechanised plants in central America. Europe has long warned that removing aid to the Windward Islands in the Caribbean would devastate economies and increase the risk of growers turning to the production of drugs there as a substitute crop.

The United States is not a banana producer but has backed the case of multi-nationals, such as Chiquita, which argues that Latin American producers lose out and that EU

policy discourages diversification. The latest development revolves around a WTO ruling last year, which the EU says it has implemented through its latest import regulations.

Washington disputes that, claiming that the regime is still discriminatory, and argues that another appeal to the WTO would be time-consuming.

In all, the EU permits a limit of 857,000 tonnes of bananas to be imported free of duty from the ACP countries.

The list of products targeted by the USA yesterday will be reduced to a smaller number of items on December 15. Countries that favour the EU's banana regime, including Britain and France, are expecting to be singled out for particular attention and those not so enthusiastic, such as Germany, are likely to be left relatively untouched.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-

president of the European Commission, accused Washington of "setting itself above the law" and adopting a "might is right" attitude. He warned: "If the US continues on this course it will inevitably risk damaging broader economic and political co-operation. For the US to take such unjustified action is a particularly grave error of judgement at a time when we both need to give strong, joint leadership in responding to the economic problems in the world."

Last month a US trade representative, Charlene Barshetsky, accused Brussels of failing to do enough to ease the world economic crisis. At the time Sir Leon said electoral considerations were behind the tough posture. Yesterday he said: "I believe this dispute is not really about bananas. What has been done has been done for political reasons."



A triumphant grin from Jennifer Smith, the leader of the Progressive Labour Party, in Hamilton, Bermuda, yesterday after winning parliamentary elections for the first time. Ms Smith will be the new premier AP

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### AMERICAN TIMES WASHINGTON

## Smiles leave too much to imagination

A PEACEFUL Saturday morning and the local Safeway is blissfully undersubscribed. Americans, at least in Washington, leave their weekend supermarket shopping until Sunday afternoon.

Free to peruse the margarines (or what passes for margarine under euphemisms such as "Promise" and "You Can't Tell It's Not Butter"), I am interrupted by a small lady in a red Safeway smock asking whether she can help. No, no, I'm fine, I tell her. "Can you find what you want?" she ventures again with a big smile. Yes, really.

In fact, help would be welcome, but not the sort of help that any shop assistant, even one with a PhD, could provide. There are a hundred details inscribed on every tub - "no-fat", "lo-fat", nutrient contents running into several decimal points, but none of them tells me what the stuff actually contains. It could be sunflower oil, candle-grease or whale-blubber for all the label says.

At the cereals, where all the boxes are way too big for what is inside, I'm waylaid again. Another Safeway assistant, this time a young man, stops me. "Everything all right?" he asks. "Sure," I say, hoping the "American" reply will send him on his way.

But now I'm at the chaotic fruit and veg stands, contemplating the unwashed potatoes with apprehension - why can't this last word in service economics wash them and pack them in bags? I pick through the courgettes seeking out the rare unbruised ones. A smallish, oldish man approaches. A big smile. "You find everything?" he asks in almost unintelligible English.

Suppressing the wish to launch a diatribe about the disgraceful quality of vegetables compared with any self-respecting Sainsbury/Tesco/Waitrose, I wonder briefly whether I have not suffered a sudden age-change. So many people want to help.

In mid-worry, though, I am interrupted yet again. From behind the tomatoes, out pops the same red-overalled man, looks into my eyes (for heaven's sake, is it my perfume, perhaps?) and says he's pleased that I have found the courgettes. Perhaps I'd like some chicken, too? "Fried chicken - very good, better than home-made." I resist the temptation to snap back: "Who says?" and turn to accelerate my shopping before any more of these beaming gargoyles appear. What is this with Safeway?

Now supermarkets in the United States are dangerous places, with ever-fluctuating rules and a frisson of risk, even in genteel north-west Washington. You may get blackballed for taking your trolley to your car or for not taking it. There is the so-called "social Safeway" in Georgetown where "pick up



Richelle Roberts: Says she was propositioned

comfort of customers who recoil from chatty comments on their shopping habits is nothing compared with the torment of staff who find their management-dictated eye-contact smiles misinterpreted.

Inevitably - this is America - Safeway's smile policy is now headed for the courts. A dozen female assistants in California are suing the company, complaining that their smiles have led male customers to try their luck, make lewd remarks, even ask them out. One of the 12, Richelle Roberts, says she was repeatedly propositioned. Another said she was followed to her car.

With the lawsuit awaiting its turn in the courts, the Safeway smile has become a *cause célèbre*: everyone goes to the supermarket and everyone - on the Internet, in newspaper columns and in phone-ins - wants a say, including Safeway staff who just want to be able to turn the smile off once in a while without forfeiting their bonus or their job.

So far, sentiment is running 50-50, with Safeway insisting that its own correspondence is 90 per cent in favour.

At my local branch, though, corporate ardour may be cooling. This weekend, I overheard a young man somewhere behind the organic mushrooms instructing a junior colleague to "remember that smile", but the gargoyle grins are fading. So, if you - as I do - prefer not to make your shopping a communal experience, stop being irritated by that cheery American-style "Have a nice day" when you pass the supermarket check-out. It could have been much, much worse.

MARY DEJEVSKY



Battle to  
Control  
London  
Africa  
heats up

# What lurks in Booker's woodshed?

MUST WHEN everyone thinks it can't possibly get any worse at Booker, it does. Never a company to let a month drift by without a profit warning, the hapless cash and carry group treated the market to a corker of a stock exchange announcement yesterday. It had just about everything.

There was the scrapping of the dividend, the pointed remarks about "over-optimistic expectations" by previous management, a boardroom departure, the threat of job cuts and even the possible breach of its banking covenants. It was a full "kitchen sink" job.

And perhaps this is the point. Stuart Rose has only been Booker's chief executive for about six weeks. Like a new manager at a football club, he has the opportunity to size everything up, decide what he doesn't like and justifiably throw it overboard whilst blaming it all on his predecessors. Coming this early in his tenure, Mr Rose cannot be held responsible for a further plunge in profits.

Even so the scale of it is quite breathtaking and questions must be asked about why the market was not alerted before. It is only a matter of weeks since Jonathan Taylor,



## OUTLOOK

the erstwhile Booker chairman, was insisting that there was no black hole in Booker's accounts and that the company was not in danger of breaching its banking covenants. He was speaking after first Somerfield and then Budgens had run away from the idea of merging with Booker. Neither company said exactly why it had taken flight but the implication in at least one case was that something nasty had been found in the woodshed.

One has to wonder why Mr Taylor and his finance director, John Kitson, failed to notice it.

Trading has undoubtedly got tougher in the last few weeks, as retailers like Marks & Spencer and

Boots have said, but surely not by this scale of magnitude.

All of this leaves Booker in a pretty sorry state.

It has just two executive directors, including Mr Kitson, and a business that seems to be heading south at a rate of knots. Mr Rose is faced with the task of exiting a number of businesses while trying to revitalise the core chain. After this long in the doldrums and dogged by takeover and merger speculation, divisional management must be completely demoralised.

But as this column has argued before, Mr Rose ought to be able to do something with a business with sales of more than £5bn. The previous management invested heavily in the business in its final years, and barring a collapse in consumer spending that should start to pay off. But it will be a long road back and if there are any upsets from now on, Mr Rose will have no one else to blame.

## Stock markets

CALLING THE bottom of a market is as difficult as spotting its peak. This column had the stock market, as

tracked by the FTSE100 index, bottoming at 4,200. In fact, the low point came on 5 October at 4,648.7, which all goes to show, it never pays to be greedy. With the benefit of hindsight it is possible to see two events as establishing a coining floor beneath Western share prices.

The first was the Federal Reserve's rescue of Long Term Capital Management. From the start, on 17 July, the bear market was more an internalised response to the financial contagion spreading from the developing world than anything else.

In this respect it was quite unlike most previous corrections, which tend to be caused by a build up of inflationary pressures, an increase in interest rates, and a consequent reduction in credit and liquidity.

The collapse of LTCM threatened to turn this contagion into financial armageddon. Imagine what might have happened. The enforced liquidation of a \$200bn portfolio would have moved the market dramatically further against the herd who had been following similar trading strategies. There would have been multiple bankruptcies and an undreamt of erosion of capital throughout the Western banking system.

Our own prediction of 4,200 for the

index might have looked optimistic in the extreme.

The second piece of life support also came from the US Federal Reserve - a second cut in US interest rates. Although only a quarter point, the unscheduled nature of the cut nonetheless sent an important message to markets. Alan Greenspan and other policy makers were not entirely asleep at the wheel after all, but were still capable of decisive action.

Even so, the subsequent bounce in the market has taken even the most bullish commentators by surprise. The FTSE100 index has recovered more than half its fall and as things stand, it is up 6 per cent on the year as a whole. Recovery in the FTSE mid cap has been more cautious, while the small cap index remains way below both its peak and its starting level for the year. But, on average, even these companies have shown a considerable recovery since the market bottomed.

The bounce in the US has been more spectacular still, with the Standard & Poor's composite now back to within spitting distance of its peak. As far as Western stock markets are concerned, then, it is almost as though the crisis of the late summer never happened. We all know that markets are

prone to exaggeration, to bouts of panic both on the up and downside.

Despite the sophistication of modern analysis and trading systems, markets remain the creature of primeval psychologies - fear and greed. Traders move in herds, perhaps more so now that so many of them are not genuine investors than ever before, panicking the market down one month only to drive it up the next for fear of missing their turn.

This in itself is a good reason for remaining suspicious of the present recovery. Plainly we are now in much calmer waters than we have been. And it no longer appears likely that a big player in financial markets is about to go bust, causing a fresh bout of panic. On the other hand, the economic fundamentals don't seem to have changed very much.

The UK economy is slowing rapidly; the US and the rest of Europe cannot be too far behind.

As yesterday's regional trends survey shows, the recession in manufacturing is about to become official. A full recession across the whole economy still seems unlikely, but it would be unwise to bet that way. For investors, caution must remain the order of the day. That is not to say that all the bargains have gone, but the

emphasis, as ever, has to be on stock selection for the long term.

## Battle for Bilton

HAS SLOUGH ESTATES done enough to secure control of Bilton? The outcome, to be decided on Friday, depends on three shareholders - the Glenhazel Investment Trust, the Percy Bilton Charity and Schroders asset management. If the trust, which is largely owned by members of the late Percy Bilton's family, votes against the charity will follow suit and the company may survive.

For these shareholders, as for many family trusts, the critical factor will be income. Bilton may have been unimaginatively and nepotistically managed over the years since Percy Bilton's death, but unlike Slough, it does have an 18 year record of unbroken dividend growth.

It's hard to see how Slough's 30p a share bid could be better invested for income growth, while the discount to net assets of 34p a share is still quite wide. If sufficient members of the Bilton family want capital realisation then it's all over. But it could be that Slough has been just a tad too mean to guarantee victory.



Dr John Padfield, chief executive of biotech firm Chiroscience. "The idea of clusters is an excellent one. In theory"

Keith Dobney

# Bringing heads together

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE BRITISH equivalent of California's Silicon Valley is a long way away from the brash and boastful character of its American counterpart. Forget the grand buildings and the Californian-style freeways, the gateway to the hub of the UK's hi-tech industry is a small slip road off the A1309 Milton Road.

Thirty yards away, a modest roundabout with a small green sign finally tells you where you are. Welcome to Cambridge Science Park, 130 acres of research courtesy of Cambridge University's Trinity College, the landlord, and 4,500 scientists, suits and sandwich ladies.

With over 70 firms, the park is the largest concentration of information technology and drug development companies in the country and one of the biggest in Europe. It is also a model "cluster", the government's new-found instrument to inject efficiency and entrepreneurial spirit into UK plc. According to "clustering" theories, the physical proximity of hi-tech businesses at an early stage of the development of their products encourages collaboration and helps them survive the difficult start-up years.

The government is so keen on clusters that the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, is set to make them a key part of New Labour's industrial policy in a white paper on competitiveness to be published next month. Mr Mandelson is said to have been very impressed by the idea during a recent visit to Silicon Valley and plans to trigger a "cluster explosion" in the UK over the coming years.

Scottish Enterprise, the development agency, has been among the first to move, by appointing Bob Downes, one of its top officials, to the brand-new post of "head of clusters".

But do clusters such as

Cambridge Science Park, Peter Mandelson's model for a British "cluster explosion"?

And can they live up to the government's dream of being efficiency-enhancing islands of research and development?

Most of the tenants of Cambridge Science Park do not buy the government's rhetoric. John Padfield, the chief executive of Chiroscience, one of the UK's largest and most successful biotechnology companies, is a classic example of a dissatisfied cluster customer.

Dr Padfield's company has spent more than six years in the Cambridge cluster and is now moving to a different site south of the city because it feels the park has failed to deliver on its promises. His complaints highlight one of the key issues for present and future clusters.

If business groupings are to succeed, physical closeness is not enough. To spur rival firms into interacting business parks must foster a "sense of community" which encourages people to share ideas.

"The idea of clusters is an excellent idea in theory, but if someone asked me 'Has Cambridge Science Park created a community or is it just a phys-

ical collection of people?' I would have to reply 'latter'."

In the experience of Dr Padfield and many other executives, the famed interaction with other firms has been close to nothing and the benefits of pooling resources and bouncing ideas off of each other is almost non-existent.

Part of the problem is in the lack of common facilities where the mingling between the cluster's inhabitants can take place. The lesson that future developments will have to learn from Cambridge is that scientists need to be dragged away from their laboratories by the lure of common amenities. In the Cambridge Park these are conspicuous by their absence.

With its low-rise buildings nestled among hills and lakes, the park looks more like a elderly people's holiday camp than a thriving centre of business development. Walking around the park at lunchtime is a bit like taking a stroll in the Sahara. There is only one restaurant and conference hall, the Trinity Centre, which is regarded as totally inadequate by

most tenants. One executive said he would be "embarrassed" to bring his customers there. The companies have complained to Trinity and the college has launched a major multimillion pound plan to build a new conference centre and health club by the Millennium.

This should drag the boffins out of their shells and should help fulfill the park's potential, according to its supporters. They point to a number of other advantages brought about by clustering. First, the use of common suppliers for things such as technical equipment and building maintenance triggered sizeable cost-savings for the park's tenants. More importantly, cluster enthusiasts believe that having a hi-tech grouping with close geographical and financial links to a hotbed of research such as Cambridge University is a major drive in staff recruitment.

Stephen Inglis, the research director at Cantab Pharmaceuticals, another leading biotech firm, says that the eight years spent at the park "have been great".

The consensus among the park's workers is that peak-hour congestion, when most of them get to work is horrendous and makes entering and exiting the park a harrowing experience. One worker said that it takes him 45 minutes, on average, to leave the site every evening - hardly the kind of lifestyle to endeavour the park to the UK's best scientists.

Staff can also be deterred by high house prices in the city, which are partly due to the presence of the park.

As one executive put it: "Nobody knows whether clusters work, but the clear lesson from Cambridge is that they certainly do not work when the infrastructure is not right."

"There is a warm glow associated with a company which is linked to Cambridge and is next to the University. Being here gives us the credibility to attract the right-quality people". John Brown, the chief executive of Peptide Therapeutics, another drug company, agrees.

"Cambridge is a great attraction for the kind of people we want to employ. They like to work here because they like the hi-tech culture".

Dr Inglis believes that, although Cambridge Park has been going for almost 30 years, it needs more time to bear fruit. "There is a tremendous wealth of knowledge and this coalescence of interest will create its own momentum."

Being able to attract the country's best brains is a powerful selling point. But if the Cambridge experience is anything to go by, even that advantage could be jeopardised by poor infrastructure.

Colin Webb, the head of European development at the US biotech giant Amgen, said that headhunters told him that potential applicants for one of the company's positions had been put off by the park's location. Traffic is one of the location's biggest drawbacks.

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As one executive put it: "Nobody knows whether clusters work, but the clear lesson from Cambridge is that they certainly do not work when the infrastructure is not right."

# British executives fall short in fat-cat league

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE WIDESPREAD idea that UK executives are overpaid fat cats took a knock yesterday when Monks Partnership, a remuneration consultancy, published a league table showing that British directors are paid around 30 per cent less than their counterparts in Germany, Austria, Spain and Switzerland.

The UK is ranked at only 11th place out of 16 countries, after taking into account pay after tax and the cost of living in each country. The Monks Partnership, an independent consultancy based in Saffron Walden, Essex, surveyed non-Board directors working for companies with an average turnover of £50m.

The survey shows that British directors in this category are roughly level with those in Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands, Greece, France, Portugal and Italy. In contrast, Scandinavian directors' pay is 75 per cent of UK pay levels.

Tony Vernon-Harcourt, the chairman of Monks Partnership, said: "Based on our data, the pay of a director of a £50m subsidiary company is at a broadly similar level to pay in seven out of 15 other western European countries.

"Our figures do, however, only look at cash remuneration. Other elements of the remuneration package such as pension or share options, which are both complex to value, may affect the director's overall position," he said.

For instance, cash salaries tend to be a lot higher in Germany than in the UK, but share options are only just being introduced on the Continent, whereas such options have been commonplace in Britain for more than a decade.

Mr Vernon-Harcourt added that the strong pound has probably affected the figures, driving the UK's cost of living up, despite the UK having a relatively low tax regime.

"The big surprise is Spain, which has really shot up the rankings", he said. "Switzerland, Germany and Austria have always tended to be on top, ever since we started doing the league tables in 1988."

He also said that what may be broadly true about pay for directors of a £50m subsidiary may not be true of a parent company. There was also considerably less disclosure about executive pay on the Continent. The only country which approached the UK's openness on this subject was Holland. Mr Vernon-Harcourt said.

## PRODUCT RECALL

### TESCO WHOLE BLACK PEPPER 55g JAR

The British Pepper & Spice Co Limited is taking the precautionary measure of recalling a small batch of their product that is sold as TESCO WHOLE BLACK PEPPER because of suspected microbiological contamination.

This recall ONLY affects the black peppercorns supplied in Tesco 55g jars priced at £1.54. NO OTHER PEPPER TYPE, PEPPER PACK OR PEPPER REFILL IS AFFECTED.

The recalled product is contained in a 55g glass jar with a black plastic cap, and the code 8296 (followed by any other letters/numbers) is printed in yellow/green ink on the rim of the cap.

The date code for the product is Best Before End Oct. 2000.

#### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Customers who have purchased the above product should return it to the Customer Service Desk at the most convenient Tesco store for a full refund.

Tesco apologise for any inconvenience caused.

For further information, please contact:

The British Pepper & Spice Co Ltd  
Rhosili Road, Brackmills, Northampton, NN4 7AN.

FREEPHONE: 0800 917 8390







# Utilities rescue struggling Footsie

SHARES IN Marston Thompson & Evershed, brewer of one of the nation's most renowned traditional beers, were in a rare old ferment as rumours of a takeover bid swirled around.

The price rose 26p to 198.5p in brisk trading, with stories circulating that Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries could be planning a 300p-a-share strike.

A merger would make sense in the highly competitive brewing industry. Both Marston and Wolves have felt the impact of the brewing upheaval, which has relegated regional brewers to the poor relations of the drinks industry.

The shares of the two have seen better days. Marston was 360p in the summer; Wolves, unchanged at 419p, touched 355p in June and 705p last year. Clearly a deal to change market perception of the groups would be well received. It would create the country's biggest regional brewer with almost 2,000 pubs.

Marston, famed for its Pedigree bitter, is talking to Nomura, the Japanese bank, about securing its tenanted pubs. It is unclear just how near the talks are to reaching

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK  
PAIN

agreement or whether Wolves, the bigger of the two, was stirred into action by the proposed deal.

Marston's attempt to join the regional pub bandwagon has caused it some discomfort. It overpaid for the Pitcher & Piano chain, splashing out nearly 220m. Its plan to roll out the concept nationally has proved difficult to realise.

With brewing groups giving up beer production to concentrate on retailing, the beery is in turmoil. Vaux, the Sunderland group, is abandoning brewing to run its

Swallow hotels chain and upmarket pub and has put its two breweries and 350 bottom-of-the-barrel pubs on the market. Director Frank Nicholson is attempting a buyout, but is thought to be finding it difficult to get the necessary support.

Utilities rescued Footsie. At one time it was down 74.4 points, but the privatised groups strengthened as the day progressed and briefly, just before the close, the index achieved a chunk of blue before ending 1.6 down at 5,432.3. Supporting shares ran out of steam, with the mid cap off 60.5 to 4,744 and the small cap 5.6 to 2,058.8.

Severn Trent was the best-performing Footsie constituent, up 60p to 1,909p. Thames Water, 40p at 1,163p, and United Utilities, 24p at 885p, were among others in form as Crédit Lyonnais said the water sector was undervalued. British Energy, National Grid and National Power also made headway.

Woolwich, the mortgage bank, was in a mixed banking sector. The shares rose 6.5p to 365.5p, putting another touch to the sort of graph (see illustration) which excites chart followers. The graph,

some say, foreshadows corporate action.

The Scottish banks remained friendless. Royal Bank of Scotland fell 34p to 783p and Bank of Scotland 25p to 529p. The two have been

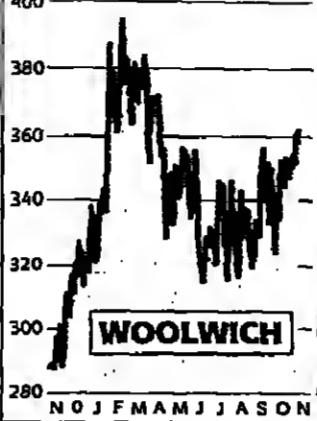
THE ELECTRONIC share dealing revolution continues. Post, a computerised trading system, is due to be launched next Wednesday. The execution-only stockbroker matches trades twice a day and it should clinch its first deals at its morning fix.

Post is a joint venture between Société Générale, the French bank, and Investment Technology of the US. Post has already achieved a significant presence in the US.

subjected to analysts' caution.

BT gained 6p to 831p, with Merrill Lynch making positive noises. Speculation is growing that the group could hand to shareholders some proceeds from the sale of its 20 per cent interest in MCI.

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Source: Datamonitor

wine and spirit operations over the next five years.

Blacks Leisure, the sportswear retailer, remained in the takeover spotlight, gaining a further 17.5p to 271.5p. Celtic, the Glasgow football

LIMELIGHT, the bathroom and kitchen group which has had a disastrous stock market life, is thought to be meeting institutions in the next few days. The shares are 28.5p; they were 20p two years ago.

The group is vulnerable. Stephen Boles, a major shareholder, died in Africa, and his stake may be available.

Mr Boles was also a big shareholder at Ofex-traded football club Manchester City, up 5p at 80p.

club, rose 50p to 292.5p as a consortium including Kenny Dalglish and singer Jim Kerr threatened a bid.

Booker, the cash-and-carry chain, collapsed 54.75p to 64.25p after a profits. Two potential bidders, Somerfield and Budgens,

have already walked away from the struggling group. Iceland rose 10.5p to 226p following its home shopping move; it expects to offer a food shopping service through digital television next summer.

Retailers were ruffled by a gloomy British Retail Consortium survey. Storehouse, also under pressure from CSFE, fell 7.5p to 168p and Next 23.5p to 490p.

BICC, the cables and construction group, was little changed at 55.5p following Monday's analysts meeting. Henderson Crosthwaite regionals meet tomorrow to discuss action after failing to reach a pay and conditions deal with RJB.

SEAO VOLUME: 855.6 million  
SEAO TRADES: 58,191  
GILT INDEX: 111.45 +0.60

## Full power from CWC boosts sales and profits

### INVESTMENT

EDITED BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

#### CABLE & WIRELESS COMMS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £7.10bn, share price 476p (+15p)

Trading record 1997 1998  
Half year to 30 Sept

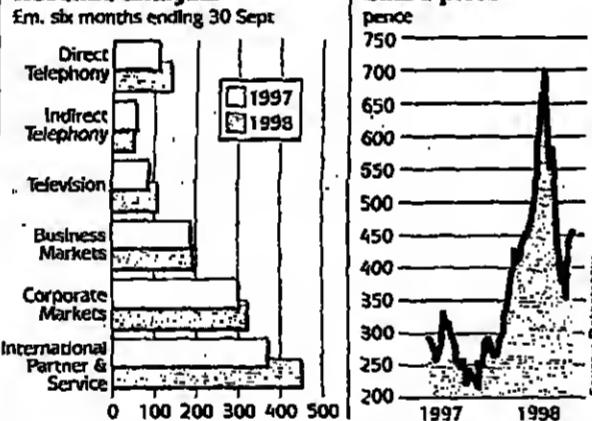
Turnover (£m) 1,103 1,257

Pre-tax profits (£m) 65 73

Earnings per share (p) NIL NIL

Dividends per share (p) NIL NIL

Revenue analysis £m, six months ending 30 Sept



well placed to make further progress.

On full-year forecasts of £45.5m the shares trade on a forward multiple of 11. That is only in line with the sector, where a premium to the more commodity-based players such as Express Dairies and Robert Wiseman is justified. Good value.

#### Downturn test for Newsquest

NEWSQUEST, England's largest regional and local newspaper publisher, has suffered badly during the market turbulence of the past three months. Although yesterday's third-quarter profit announcement was better than expected – profits increased by 48 per cent to £14.5m – investor faith has still to be renewed. The share price is still 27 per cent below its July peak of 340p.

Because the publication of local newspapers is Newsquest's core activity, it relies on advertising for the bulk of its revenues. Most analysts believe that, if there were a significant downturn in the economy, Newsquest's earnings from recruitment ads – 20 per cent of its overall advertising revenue – would be badly hit, with its operations outside London and the South east most affected.

Analysts are sticking to forecasts of profits of 55m for the full year and earnings of 22.5p per share. With the stock trading up 50p to 250p on the back of this release, the forward earnings multiple is still above 11.

Analysts will agree that there is not much fundamentally wrong with the company, and that it is undervalued in the long term. Due to the cyclical nature of its earnings, however, there is still some scepticism about short-term prospects and the share price may have some way to slide as the economy slows.

The business may benefit from the inevitable consolidation of this sector but, even without a big shakeout, it looks

well advised to bide their time before climbing aboard.

Potential investors would be

Mike Brindle, Energi marketing manager, on PR duty with the ladies from 'The Price is Right' Mark Chivers

## Beckitt out the picture

### PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

45 years in business journalism, notably at The Times, where he was business editor and business news editor.

Mr Souter has also pinched Alistair Smith from East of Scotland Water to be head of information technology at Stagecoach. He expects to recruit a head of business resources soon.

According to a recently published history of the company, notably at The Times, where he was business editor and business news editor.

Previously Sir Charles was the commercial director at Airbus Industrie, in charge of worldwide marketing, sales and sales financing of all Airbus products. He started his career at British Aerospace.

Sir Geoff Pattie is also joining GEC as group communications director.

DO WE detect the fell hand of Simon Lewis, recently appointed spokesman for Buckingham Palace, in the decision

to send Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on a tour of City institutions next Wednesday in order to "get to know more about the financial services industry"?

Certainly not, Mr Lewis insists. The man seconded from his £150,000-a-year PR job at Centrica to the Palace says before he arrived.

The couple will start their one-day tour at the Financial Services Authority in Canary Wharf. Whether they will get there by joining the sweaty, frustrated masses on the delayed Docklands Light Railway has not been announced.

Then it's back to the Square Mile to meet the Lord Mayor, Lord Levene, at Bankers Trust. The Queen will then visit Merrill Lynch and Electra, while the Duke deals with Lloyds TSB and the Stock Exchange.

After lunch, Eddie George will show them around the Bank of England and introduce them to members of the Monetary Policy Committee. Perhaps they can do us all a favour and send the interesting hawk to the Tower.

### Brands reward Dairy Crest

DAIRY CREST, the former processing arm of the old Milk Marketing Board, has performed well since coming to the stock market two years ago. Fleeted at 155p, the shares now stand at 322p, up 7.5p yesterday.

The consumer markets division increased revenues by 20 per cent and boosted its market share in both cable television and telephony, while the contribution from business markets is no longer declining. Corporate markets account for another quarter of revenues, and growth has been resumed.

But international and partner services is both the biggest and fastest-growing part of the business. The increasing number of telecoms providers, the growth of the Internet and the exceptional increase in traffic by mobile operators has led to a 22 per cent rise in revenues.

CWC now carries the majority of international traffic for Vodafone and is the market leader in the Internet and premium-rate sectors.

Group revenues rose by 14 per cent and operating expenses were virtually flat, which augurs well for the future. Interest charges rose by more than 50 per cent to £25m after shouldering reorganisation costs, and bank debt has been largely refinanced by a series of bond issues. The average cost of the issued is around 7 per cent, which looks expensive, but the company's future cash requirements are now fully funded.

Analysts claim CWC is still on course to make £183m in the full year and earnings of 9.9p. CWC looks certain to be a good long-term investment but the shares, which rose 15p to 476p, look fully valued in the short to medium term.

yogurt and Clover spreads, now account for 40 per cent of sales and two-thirds of profits. The strategy is to edge those figures higher through organic expansion and acquisitions, such as February's £65m takeover of Raine Dairy Products.

Crest is backing its top brands with increased advertising spends, which are paying dividends. The extra firm put behind Cathedral City cheddar lifted sales by 7 per cent in a market up just 2 per cent overall.

Clover spread, which retails at a premium to rivals such as Utter Butter, benefited from a £1m television campaign and its market share is growing.

On a broader front the dairy market is tough, but Dairy Crest's brands should give it some muscle against the might of the supermarkets.

The business may benefit from the inevitable consolidation of this sector but, even without a big shakeout, it looks

well advised to bide their time before climbing aboard.

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## SPORT

Cricket: The West Indies captain has demonstrated that a player with television pulling power can call the tune

# Lara revels in his power and influence

THREE years ago, when Brian Lara sought the backing of his fellow West Indies players, the rebuff so shattered him it almost brought a premature end to his career.

Fed up with internal dissension on the 1995 tour of England, Lara squarely blamed the captain, Richie Richardson. At the team meeting post-mortem of the defeat in the fourth Test at Old Trafford, in which he scored the first of his three hundreds for the series, Lara told Richardson that most of the other players felt the same way, too.

When Richardson, a quiet, mild-mannered man, responded in the words of the leaked report by the manager, Wes Hall, that he was not prepared to "bow to any egotistical people who have agendas and ambitions", Lara looked around him to the sound of silence. According to Hall, he "jumped up and stormed out of the meeting", declaring "I resign". He later told Hall: "Cricket is ruining my life."

Only the coaxing of then West Indies Cricket Board president, Peter Short, got him back into the fold after four days' absence without leave, but he was fined 10 per cent of his tour fee for leaving the team all the same.

Now fast forward to last weekend. Lara and nine of his present colleagues, some of whom were at the fateful Manchester meeting, are

BY TONY COZIER

ensconced at Heathrow's Excelsior Hotel, refusing to travel to Johannesburg as scheduled for a tour of special cricket and special significance until their Board agrees to meet with them to review fees and conditions.

Appointed captain in January after a lengthy, often turbulent, wait, Lara had just been sacked – along with his vice-captain, Carl Hooper – by a Board that had lost patience with the

*They knew that if they held firm the Board would have to eat humble pie and revert to the status quo*

several incidents that had brought him fines, reprimands and warnings from the disciplinary committee.

The career of the most celebrated, complex and controversial cricketer of his time, holder of the world record Test and first-class scores, was in the balance. It was not the first time.

The Board, angered by the defiance of Lara and Hooper in disre-

garding the instructions of the Tour manager, Clive Lloyd, to fly to South Africa straight from Dhaka, where they had led the side in the Wills International Cup, felt fully justified in taking its action. It summoned Lara to Antigua to attend a hastily arranged special meeting but, although their tickets were provided, the pair stayed put at Heathrow. It was a further aggravation.

Although the passionate public, to whom the players are heroes, swamped radio call-in shows with demands for the recall of Lara and Hooper, the Board had influential support. Even the sports minister in Lara's home island of Trinidad said he should be penalised for his "disobedience". It was tantamount to standing up in Havana's Square of the Revolution with a loudspeaker and agitating for the overthrow of Fidel Castro.

This time the Board, and those who backed it, counted without the support Lara would receive from those around him – and more especially Courtney Walsh. The former captain, as much revered in the Caribbean as at his adopted Gloucestershire, had been deposed by the Board in Lara's favour in a messy transfer of power. Only a year earlier the two were at loggerheads to such an extent that Walsh, as captain of Jamaica, pointedly chose not to toss up with Lara for a match against Trinidad and Tobago. He sent his vice-captain instead who, the talk has it, informed Lara that "the king is on the throne".

Now Walsh is the president of the newly consolidated West Indies Players' Association with Lara as his deputy and their bond – and that of the other players – is as strong as in any well-organised labour union.

The traditional platitude that no sportsman, however great, is indispensable has been rendered obsolete by the financial control exerted by the television networks and sponsors. Consequently, the players are confident of themselves and they knew that if they held firm, the board would have to eat humble pie and revert to the status quo.

The reality was clearly spelt out by Edward Griffiths, the head of South African Broadcasting Corporation sport, which is televising the series. "We won't put up with anything but a full strength team," he said. "We owe it to our sponsors, viewers and advertisers."

With the political significance emphasised by a letter to the players from Nelson Mandela himself, hand delivered by the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, Dr Ali Bacher, in London, the die had been cast.

Within hours, the Board had dispatched one of its most identifiable and popular members, Joel Garner, the giant fast bowler of the 1980s, and the manager, Lloyd, to London to initiate negotiations. The players potentially told them that only the Board president, Pat Rousseau, the tough-talking Jamaican attorney who took up the post in 1996, would do.

The former South African wicket-keeper Dave Richardson, who now represents the 21 players contracted to the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said that the row could prompt the formation of an international body aimed at looking after players' interests.

"I don't think we can go as far as to have standardised contracts for tours," Richardson said, "but guidelines and basic necessities ought to be established."

In quick time, Rousseau and a more high-powered delegation was on its way and, with the limp explanation that it was merely a "misunderstanding" that had kept South



Brian Lara has extended his dominance from the crease to the whole organisation of cricket in the West Indies

Allsport

Africa, the Caribbean and the entire cricket world on tenterhooks for close to a week. Lara and Hooper were reinstated, the fines against the recalcitrant players, including Walsh, withdrawn and the Players' Association's demands on fees and conditions agreed to.

It was an ironic twist. The Board had gone against the better judgement of most of its members in appointing Lara. Only a few months earlier they had actually rejected the recommendation of the selectors to

install him for the tour of Pakistan and retained Walsh, a decision that had led Lara's home board in Trinidad to charge the WICB with "a calculated plot to tarnish their image and international reputation using Lara's past indiscretions as the basis for sowing the seeds of destruction". A startling accusation, it typified the in-sular divisions that still beset West Indies cricket at all levels.

The WICB also funded the establishment in Barbados of a permanent secretariat of the Players'

Association, for years a disjointed body that represented only the current Test players. It is giving \$150,000 (£93,000) over a three-year period, enough to help pay for the first chief executive officer, the former Test all-rounder, team manager and chief selector, David Hollford.

What the outcome has unquestionably done is strengthen Lara's position as the most influential player in the West Indies and arguably now the most influential person in West Indies cricket, period. He and

the Players' Association have won a famous struggle against the Board, whose reputation and resolve had already been dented by a succession of fiascos in recent times.

One of Rousseau's first acts on assuming the presidency of what was then the West Indies Cricket Board of Control in 1998 was to delete the word "control" from its title. It was a symbolic gesture designed to erase its image as an uncaring relic of a colonial past. It can be seen now as a prophetic augury for the future.

## Tourists turn to diplomacy

BRIAN LARA, the reinstated captain of the troubled West Indies team, apologised after arriving in Johannesburg yesterday for missing the first match of their historic South African tour because of a pay dispute.

However, Lara refused to discuss the settlement reached in London on Monday that persuaded them to travel to South Africa. The matter was "totally confidential," he said.

"The team is here to win the Test series and the whole team, apart from Jimmy Adams, is fit," Lara added. Adams, it transpired, had cut a finger on his right hand with a bread knife while trying to slice a bread roll on the flight from London.

The team arrived yesterday morning in South Africa without the fast bowlers Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, who apparently arrived late at Heathrow airport for their flight. The rest of the squad left London on Monday evening after a settlement ended the revolt over pay. The opening match is scheduled for today in Soweto, against a Gauteng provincial XI. The first Test begins on 26 November in Johannesburg.

The late arrival caused the team to miss yesterday's exhibition match in Randjesfontein near Johannesburg. Lara said the team wanted to apologise. "They're pretty sorry at this time for any offence," he said. "We also want to thank President Mandela for the letter he sent to us in London during the discussions. Everyone on the team respects

President Mandela tremendously, and the gesture was deeply appreciated."

Mandela had urged that the cricketers to resolve their differences – the president sees sport as a means of achieving racial unity. This tour is the first by the West Indies since the fall of apartheid in South Africa.

Before the settlement was agreed, the West Indies Cricket Board agreed to recognise the role of the players' union, review player insurance coverage and the grievance and disciplinary code, and work toward a joint marketing programme that would allow players a share in revenue.

The West Indies tour manager, Clive Lloyd, described the tour as "a little full in their careers," referring to Lara and Carl Hooper, the vice-captain who, along with Lara, was sacked and then reinstated.

"But they are professional people and know what's expected of them," Lloyd added.

The former South African wicket-keeper Dave Richardson, who now represents the 21 players contracted to the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said that the row could prompt the formation of an international body aimed at looking after players' interests.

"I don't think we can go as far as to have standardised contracts for tours," Richardson said, "but guidelines and basic necessities ought to be established."

## Irwin grabs the money but not the credit

HERE IS a question Colin Montgomerie or Lee Westwood might want to get up on should they be appearing on "A Question of Sport": Who holds the record for the biggest earnings on a single tour in a single season? Tiger Woods? David Duval, perhaps? Sorry. The answer is Hale Irwin.

While you are trying to work that one out, here is a supplementary: Whose record did he overtake? Greg Norman, perhaps. No, in fact it was his own.

For the last two seasons Irwin, who plays on the US Senior Tour, has been the biggest money winner on any single circuit. Last year he won \$2.3m (£1.4m) while Woods led the regular tour with \$2.1m. Last Sunday, Irwin won the Senior Tour Championship to top the list again with \$2.9m compared to Duval's \$2.6m.

The strength in depth, of course, is nothing compared to the regular

circuit, where 26 players passed \$1m this season. But the fact that 11 seniors also broke through the seven-figure barrier shows what a remarkable sport golf is when a bunch of 50-year-olds can earn similar winnings to those in their prime.

You would think they would get fed up with all the travelling and the constant grind of tour life but, with over 40 tournaments worth over \$40m, who is complaining. As Julius Boros asked: how do you retire when you have spent all your life playing golf and fishing? And don't bother with the Viagra, there have been creche facilities on the Senior tour for years.

Irwin does not just play on the

tour; he dominates it. His latest win was his 20th in four years. He won nine times in 1997 and seven times this season, including the PGA Seniors' Championship and the US Senior Open. He led the tour in putting, greens in regulation, birdies per round and lowered the stroke average record to 68.59.

But who exactly is Irwin beating? His nearest challenger is Gil Morgan, who has won six times in each of the last two seasons and finished second on the money list with over \$2m each time. Last Sunday, Morgan, the defending champion, went into the final round with a one-stroke lead but Irwin shot a 65 to win by five. With no one else near

enough to challenge the top two it could be a great rivalry. But the outside world is showing little evidence that it cares very much. What Irwin and Morgan lack is the one thing the Golden Oldies circuit was founded on: charisma.

Irwin, at least, was a major champion. But he will be remembered for the admired but hardly thrilling achievement of hitting enough fairways and greens to win three US Opens in three different decades. Morgan won seven times in his regular career but the most exciting line in his biography is that he is a non-practising optometrist.

Arnold Palmer was the catalyst for the Senior tour in the early 80s.

Arnie's Army still had eyes for only one man, he just needed a different playground. The tour reached its zenith earlier in this decade when Lee Trevino – who won a record 27 times before the "round bellies" started to fatten – Jack Nicklaus and

Nicklaus never wanted to be seen playing full time on a ceremonial circuit but, ironically, his desire to perform at the highest level helped move the Senior tour away from that image towards a highly competitive arena. It is now one where the lifespan of a senior in terms of regularly contending has shrunk to under five years.

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Arnold Palmer was the catalyst for the Senior tour in the early 80s.

exciting to watch," said Johnny Miller. "They don't relate to the galleries like the old superstars. It's a downer from having Trevino battling Nicklaus, that's for sure."

Miller, the former British and US Open champion, has only been persuaded to come down from his commentary tower for a couple of Senior events and immediately retreated when he scattered puts all over the place. The next big names to join the circuit – and that is not definite – since they have already cashed in on the regular tour – are Tom Watson, Tom Kite and Lanny Wadkins.

Watson will be the first of the trio to arrive but not until next September. That gives Irwin another season to clean up. "I have a lot of confidence and I'm putting well," he said. "There's no sign of weakness in my game unless I let it happen. Somewhere along the line the streak will slow down a bit. But right now, I don't intend to let it happen."



Irwin: Lacking charisma

Black mark for myth peddling







# High rollers fall on hard times

AS USUAL the likeable direct Roy Hodgson did not duck the question. "No one involved with Blackburn Rovers would try to pretend that our start to the season has been anything short of disappointing," he said. No one did because these words were spoken in mid-September before the real stumpp began.

Since then, Rovers have gone from disappointing to worse, winning one of their last nine League matches while slipping into the relegation places. The future does not look rosy either; as away matches against Newcastle, Manchester United and Liverpool do not normally launch revivals. By tonight they could be out of the Worthington Cup; by December they could be bottom of the Premiership.

It is an abhorrent prospect for the champions of 1995 and one made more grim by contrast. Spin back a year and Rovers were third in the Premiership, had walloped Sheffield Wednesday 7-2 and Aston Villa 4-0 and had lost only once, unluckily 4-3 to Leeds. On Remembrance Day the Blackburn public can remember only too well the giddy sense of excitement that had walked into Ewood Park alongside Hodgson as he became manager in June 1997 in succession to Ray Harford.

They prefer to forget 1998

**Blackburn's free-fall from Premiership contenders to a depleted, dispirited side has raised the first doubts about their manager, Roy Hodgson. By Guy Hodgson**

altogether. Just seven wins and 26 points have been collected in 11 months of toil and frequent tears and the team looks dispirited to the point where you can almost see the self-belief dripping from their blue and white shirts.

On Saturday if the nadir was not reached then Blackburn moved into the neighbourhood with a 2-1 home defeat by fellow strugglers Coventry City. This time it was the performance as well as the result that looked ugly and isolated boozing broke out as the team left the field.

"We've no quarrel with the result,"

Hodgson said afterwards. "I thought it was a very, very good Coventry side and they prevented us from playing. When you play against a good side and they play very well it always makes your side look poor."

No one disputed the last sentiment but Coventry a very, very good side? Gordon Strachan's team, it ought to be noted, had won only twice before they arrived at Ewood Park and if they deserve superlatives how do you evaluate Aston Villa and Arsenal? It is in those terms that, not so long ago, Blackburn were being referred.

The local paper, the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph*, found the standard lamentable. "There were questions to be asked after this abysmal performance which wasn't down to a few individuals performing badly," its match report read. "It was as a team they distinctly failed to function."

What has gone wrong? The most obvious explanation is injury. On Saturday eight players and an entire midfield – Sebastian Perez, Gary Flitcroft, Billy McKinlay and Jason Wilcox – was missing while Rovers' best player, Kevin Gallacher, has played only once since 9 September.

Colin Hendry's unexpected 24m

move to Rangers has left a gaping hole in the defence. "It gave us real headaches," Hodgson said. "Not only was it totally unexpected and not of our making, it was also at a critical time in our build-up to the new season." You could argue that Blackburn could have done more to keep their captain but he was intent on going to Glasgow and to stop him would have been to keep a discontented player. An unhappy Hendry might have been a depleted one.

Yet Hodgson is regarded as one of Germany's most serious consideration as coach for their national team and England would be looking

up his phone number if anything Eileen Derry's fortuitous happened to Glenn Hoddle. Even this week there have been reports Internazionale are interested in taking him back to Milan where he took the team to the Uefa Cup final 18 months ago. With these credentials Blackburn ought to be beating the likes of Coventry, both from the hue excepted, even in a depleted state.

Which brings attention to Hodgson's moves to strengthen his squad, a policy that has had more failures than successes. Martin Dahlin, Anders Andersson and Patrick Valenz have departed while barely leaving a mark and none of the players bought since last season has flourished yet.

Perez (22m) and Jim Corbett (£225,000) have been injured and have alibis but Kevin Davies' performances since his £7.25m transfer have not justified his fee and he has been dropped twice. A mystery virus had a debilitating effect on the former Chesterfield and Southampton striker but his chief ailment now is confidence. In 11 matches so far this season, he has yet to score.

Davies is young, 21, and is probably a goal away from rehabilitation, but the signing of Christian Dailly has caused wholesale bemusement among supporters. A £5m-plus fee appeared expensive at the time but the cost seems astronomical given that he has yet to establish a regular position in the side.

Instead of dropping into the void left by Hendry, he has played at full-back, winger and central midfield and the job of replacing the rock of Scotland has fallen to a free transfer, Darren Peacock. "Why did Hodgson buy Christian Dailly for £5.3m from Derby?" The *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* asked. "Which position is he intended to fill?"

Hendry's move has also had minds wondering about undercurrents of unrest. He had spent nine seasons in two spells at the club and appeared as much a part of Blackburn's structure as the Jack Walker Stand. His eagerness to join Rangers was odd and so was the disharmony that broke out on the day before Rovers' Uefa Cup tie against Olympique Lyonnais. Hodgson and his captain, Tim Sherwood, should have been concentrating on their French opponents, instead there was a public disagreement about the player's agent, Eric Hall, contriving a transfer to Tottenham.



Hodgson: 11 months of toil

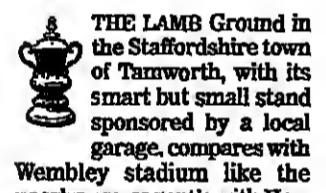
Morale is fine if you take the statements of the players at face value, but the evidence on the pitch is not convincing. On Saturday the team looked anything but happy.

Hodgson, successful with Malmö, Neuchâtel Xamax, Switzerland and Inter, concedes he has to go back to his time at Bristol City 16 years ago to remember a bleaker time. "That's football," he said. "One day you are reading you could be coach of Germany or England, the next you're fighting for your life. What can you do? Keep believing in yourself. You don't lose everything overnight, as a team or a manager."

Blackburn have to recapture what is missing and quickly. As Hodgson said on Saturday: "We need to start winning yesterday."

## Hendrie senses new Cup glory with Tamworth

**The Scottish father of an English midfield talent is preparing to relive his finest moment. By Phil Shaw**



THE LAMB Ground in the Staffordshire town of Tamworth, with its smart but small stand sponsored by a local garage, compares with Wembley stadium like the nearby newscast's with Harrod's. Yet both venues hold rich promise for the footballing Hendries.

Lee Hendrie, the 21-year-old Aston Villa midfielder, could make his England debut beneath the twin towers next week if, as the Villa hierarchy anticipate, he is named in the squad to face the Czech Republic. Meanwhile, his father Paul – who is so Scottish that his first club was Kirkintilloch Rob Roy – has a double date with FA Cup glory.

On Friday night, Hendrie will be Halifax Town's guest of honour as they launch the first round at Manchester City. In 1980, it was his goal that secured a famous win for a humdrum Fourth Division outfit over Malcolm Allison's expensive City side from the top section.

The next day, while Lee strives to help the Premiership leaders to success at Southampton, Paul will be back in his role as Tamworth manager. His task to guide the Lambs, 13th in the Dr Martens League Premier Division, to a home victory against Exeter City.

It would be a mistake, however, to assume that Hendrie Jnr is the first in the family to mix in the highest company. Paul, now 44, started out with Kenny Dalglish at Celtic under Jock Stein. He also played in the old First Division, supplying crosses for Trevor Francis and Bob Latchford as a teenaged winger for Birmingham City.

After taking the "massive gamble" of joining Portland Timbers in the North American Soccer League at the same age his son is now, he came up against Pele, Best, Beckenbauer and Eusebio. Hendrie cherishes the experience but concedes he was missed out on an important part of his development as a player.

"It was a fantastic time for me," he recalls. "In half an hour

*'I love what I'm doing at Tamworth. Some great players I played with aren't involved in the game at all'*

you could be in the mountains or on the beach. But I probably didn't make the most of my ability because the standards weren't as good in the States."

The temptation to move might not have been so strong if Birmingham had won the FA Cup in 1975. Hendrie appeared in their semi-final replay against Fulham – at Maine Road, coincidentally – and takes up the story with a baron contest entering the last seconds of extra time.

"They'd just said on the

TV that the second replay would be at Highbury when Fulham launched the ball up the field," he

continues. "I was the second to last to get to the ball and I just had to

get it past Pele, Best and Beckenbauer."

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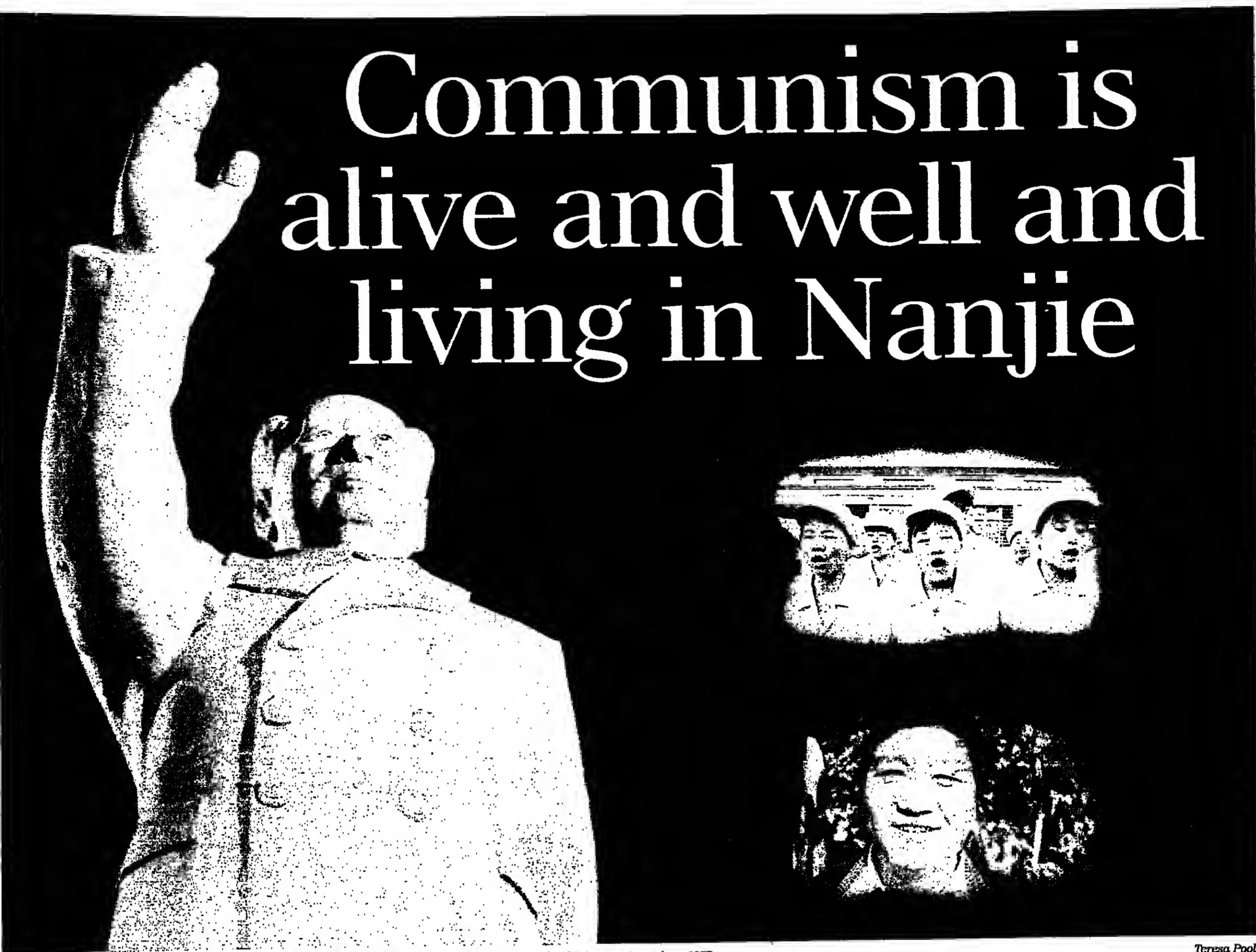




# WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

## Communism is alive and well and living in Nanjie



Above right, workers at the No 2 Noodle Factory; below right, Wang Hongbin, Nanjie's Communist Party secretary since 1977

Teresa Poole

Welcome to the village where everyone has a job for life and housing, holidays, electricity and food are free. The rest of China may have gone crazy for capitalism, but Nanjie has returned to the ideals of Chairman Mao and is making them work

**B**y night, the towering, floodlit statue of Chairman Mao stands luminescent against the dark sky, the Great Helmsman surveying the Maoist bastion that is Nanjie village. While the rest of China has spent two decades hurtling towards unrestrained capitalism, this village in central Henan Province has decided that it prefers the old ways.

So Nanjie's 3,130 citizens have recollectivised the farmland and taken back village industries from private management. Under a collective welfare system, everyone has been given an identical apartment, fitted out with identical village-issue furniture, television set, telephone and cooker. No one now earns more than 250 yuan (£19) a month, but everyone receives 14 free benefits which include schooling, health care, housing, electricity, life insurance, and a range of foodstuffs such as flour, eggs and oil.

Such privileges, however, are reduced should a family lose any stars under the 10-star good behaviour system, whose edicts embrace such Maoist principles as thrifty living, hygiene and selfless deeds.

Mao would be proud. According to village leaders, within the 0.7 square miles of Nanjie there is no crime, no unemployment, and no unplanned babies. Marriages are conducted in a group ceremony every 1 January; a communal canteen has been opened for village cadres, with plans to expand group eating; and free group holidays are organised for the best workers.

The Great Helmsman's banner reads "The Eternal Light of Mao Zedong Thought"; everyone is issued with a book of Mao's key works, and all must attend weekly political study classes. Yang Rui, 31, director of the general office at the No 2 Noodle Factory, described a political class the previous Saturday: "We learnt Mao thought, and studied stories in the newspaper about people's good deeds. We were very sincere in this study, and afterwards carried out self-criticism."

Nanjie's 11,000 migrant workers, who staff the village's 26 enterprises, start and end their shifts with renditions of Mao's revolutionary songs, such as "The Great Helmsman Sailing on the Seas". The weekly Nanjie newspaper always prints next to its masthead a long quote from Mao, in red, of course. Even the village telephone directory has a photo of Mao on its cover.

So is this China's last bastion of leftism, backed by the remnant hardliners in Peking? Next month, China will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Deng Xiaoping's reforms, launched in 1978 with the crucial decision to hand back the land to the peasants and allow private enterprise.

Nanjie's behaviour, however, apparently conflicts with all the tenets of today's central government policy to scrap welfare benefits, privatisate housing and divorce government from business enterprise.

Yet Nanjie's figures reflect a startling success:

total production output rose from 700,000 yuan

(£54,000) in 1984, the year the recollectivisation started, to 210m yuan (£16m) in 1992, and then to a staggering 1.57bn yuan (£120m) in 1997, with the products of the factories ranging from colour-printing to beer. Agriculture now accounts for less than 1 per cent of production.

But China's Communist history is littered with examples of model villages that turned out to be fakes. So is Nanjie for real, or another fraud? Early morning in Nanjie was quite an experience. The school gates opened at 5.35am for morning assembly, followed by a run, and an hour of pre-school self-study. In the dark, 12-year-old Luo Zhiqiang explained that a normal day would not finish until 8pm. How about Mao? "He's a good leader of our country. We should study his spirit well," the child trotted out by rote.

Guo Guizheng, the headmistress, said: "Since

the whole country is already socialist, we are now building up the Communist community so that

Nanjie may be the first in China to realise

Communism."

By 6.20am, "The East is Red" was blaring from village speakers. The 150 mostly teenage village militia, back from their 5am run, were assembled for a quick revolutionary song before breakfast and road-sweeping duty. Unity is strength, they chorused. By 7.30am, over at the No 2 Instant Noodle Factory, the night shift was knocking off work and lining up for their morning drill. Tang Xiaoli, a 19-year-old migrant worker, said: "In most cases, when the machines stop, we have political study. But I like working here; the food and housing are all very good." Then she ran off to join her colleagues in a rendition of "Socialism is good, socialist people are of high consciousness". Nanjie is now China's biggest instant noodle base, producing 380 tonnes a day.

Wang Hongbin, 48, is the man behind it all.

Referred to as *ban zhong* (head of the class) by

villagers, he has been Nanjie's Communist

party secretary since 1977. He also earns 250 yuan a month, and said he had no bank savings.

"Only by serving the Communist Party and people well could I repay the party for its kindness."

Mr Wang was in charge when the Mao communes were dismantled after 1978, and the land and enterprises were contracted to individual peasants. The official line is that the reforms were not a success. Many farmers deserted their land, and at the flour and brick plants the new bosses got richer but the workers did not.

So, from 1984, the enterprises were taken back into village management, and from 1986 the land was recollectivised. Yang Hua, 32, director of accounting at the No 2 Instant Noodle Factory, said: "From then on we have advocated to follow the socialist road and get rich collectively."

Nanjie's private stalls and restaurants, all run

by outsiders, are contained within a specified

area, and mostly serve visitors and migrant

Continued on page 8

### PRIMUS

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## Remembrance

Sir: At Sunday's ceremony at the Cenotaph, I noted that certain members of the Royal Family continued to wear naval and military uniforms of a much superior rank to the one that they personally earned during their time in the armed services. Thus, we had the spectacle of the Duke of Kent parading in the uniform of a field marshal, no less.

Even if this practice is followed merely for ceremonial purposes, I suggest that it creates a Ruritanian atmosphere of fancy-dress, more appropriate to the Victorian era. It is hardly helpful to the Ministry of Defence in its efforts to portray the armed services as providing careers open to merit and talent, rather than privilege.

If the Blair government is serious about creating a truly modern society, then practices like this should be consigned to history. If the persons concerned are no longer serving officers, then what is wrong with civilian dress?

R J RUMSEY  
Cranbrook, Kent

Sir: Notwithstanding the arrogant dismissal by Dr Mark Mazower of recent research (Saturday Essay, 7 November), the idea that statesmen were driven to war in 1814 by a tide of popular belligerence is a myth.

The greatest French historian of the war, Jean-Jacques Becker, has shown on the basis of exhaustive research that the popular reaction to the outbreak of the war in France was consternation, followed by resignation. Jeffrey Verhey has comprehensively demonstrated that the "community of August" in Germany was a propaganda construct; pictures were cropped and faked, the widespread anti-war demonstrations were censored.

Work on this subject in Britain is in its infancy, but early indications suggest that when local communities are studied, the "cheering crowds" begin to disappear from view. It is in fact quite possible that the "handful of principled and far-sighted pacifists" invented popular war enthusiasm to glorify themselves.

Historians for years have been misled by the writings of avant-garde intellectuals and artists on this subject. These were the segment of society which wished to escape from "materialism". To take their views on war as typical of popular opinion is similar to using Damien Hirst as evidence for contemporary British attitudes to animal rights. The whole point of the avant-garde was their rejection of "normal" societal attitudes. The most striking case is in Italy, where Futurist glorification of war contrasted with the widespread anti-war sentiment in society as a whole.

To suggest that the Europeans of 1914 were too stupid to grasp the benefits of peace and prosperity is an insult to the dead. The victims, military and civilian, of the Great War were not the architects of their own disaster. On this 80th anniversary of the end of the war, we should not promulgate the myth that this war was a punishment for the sin of popular war enthusiasm. The men who caused the war, the statesmen and generals, with their calculations and miscalculations, have been spared condemnation by this argument of "inevitability".

I agree with Dr Mazower that we find it hard to grasp the pre-war world. We find it hard to grasp precisely because we fail to understand the genuine optimism about the elimination of war which was so widespread. Ours is a far more belligerent age.

Dr ADRIAN GREGORY  
Tutor in History  
Pembroke College, Oxford

Sir: Your report on the Messines Ridge peace tower (10 November), did not mention that the Irish Parliamentary Party leader, John Redmond, unilaterally committed 170,000 of the Irish Volunteers on 3 August 1914 to fight against Germany. In all, over 300,000 Catholic Irish took part, with 40,000



Hibernating Houses No 3: While Pan plays in the foreground, garden statuary at Anglesey Abbey is tented against the frost

Brian Harris

killed and more VCs won, in proportion to the numbers fighting, than any other part of the Empire.

However, Lord Kitchener, Minister for War, who was of a rack-renting Anglo-Irish family in Ireland, refused to allow these men to have their own divisions, unlike the Ulster Protestants, because he regarded the Catholics as "not loyal" and insisted that they be distributed throughout other formations.

To claim that some of the Catholics were shot by the IRA upon their return can only be anecdotal, since the IRA evolved in December 1918 from the survivors of the Irish Volunteers, who returned home to find that Lloyd George had reneged on the Irish Home Rule Bill, which had received Royal Assent in September 1914 but had been put into abeyance until the end of the conflict, with Redmond's approval. Had Redmond withheld the Irish Volunteers until 1915, when Britain was desperate for manpower, he could have had Home Rule for the asking and these men would have come back to an Irish government.

ARTHUR VALENTINE  
Edinburgh

all combatants, would speak more to future generations about our determination to overcome differences than any number of remembrance ceremonies.

MARY DUNK  
Alpheton, Suffolk

Sir: It has been salutary in the past few days to juxtapose the solemn remembrance of the dead of two world wars with the tabloid and TV news coverage of the hounding of gay Cabinet ministers and the manufacture of rifts in the Royal Family. If the slain of the Somme were resurrected and sat down in front of a TV news bulletin, would they be entitled to ask: "In God's name, is this what we all died for?"

W C FELTON  
Manchester

## Eco-terrorism

Sir: I read with interest your article "Police unit to target green protesters" (7 November). Such a move is long overdue.

Clearly, as Assistant Commissioner, Anthony Speed points out, plans are needed at a

national level to deal with "demonstrators who climb into trees". Such violent and dangerous activities as protesting against roads, disrupting the activities of hunters, and opposition to animal experiments represent a real threat to our national security. Certainly it merits the establishment of this new group with special powers, and links to MI5 and Special Branch.

I myself have often read of the increasingly violent methods used by these eco-warriors, such as waving placards, singing protest songs (timelessly, hiding in tunnels, and, on more than one occasion, getting in the way).

I likewise applaud the decision to set up a costly national database to keep track of these terrorists, given that Mr Speed has cleverly deduced that quite often "the same people are involved". May I suggest that he monitor in particular the activities of retired members of the population, schoolchildren, certain Members of Parliament, large swaths of the law-abiding middle and working classes, and any other malcontent who does not ride to bounds.

On a point of caution though, I see Commander Barry Moss, head of Special Branch, may lead the new unit. I would urge him on appointment to move quickly to quash any subversive suggestions that in the wake of the peace accord in Northern Ireland, Special Branch and other

intelligence groups are simply casting around for a new home-grown terrorist threat to justify retaining current levels of staffing and spending. Clearly a preposterous notion.

KEN LIVINGSTONE  
Lecturer in Security Management  
Loughborough University

Sir: Labour's pre-election promises included undertakings to reduce road-building, oppose live animal exports and with parliamentary approval outlaw bunting with boughs. It has now been disclosed that the police are about to set up a new squad, drawing on the talents of Special Branch and MI5, to target protesters who attend demonstrations against road building, live

exports and bunting. It seems that many of the people who put their trust in Labour and helped to put Labour in power have not only been betrayed but are now to be persecuted into the bargain.

PETER ALLEN  
Worthing, West Sussex

## Defensive medicine

Sir: Marina Cantacuzino's article, "Birth pains which end in tragedy" (9 November) keenly illustrates the problems generated by our system of compensation for medical negligence.

Although the NHS complaints procedure is designed to give patients maximum information, the tendency of clinicians to go into "defence mode" is understandable. Admissions of culpability leave oneself open to professional censure (as witnessed in the case of the Bristol cardiac surgeons) and litigation.

Contrary to popular belief, as well as that of many solicitors, NHS trusts are not insured against medical negligence claims and it is they who foot the bill. Couple this with the fallibility of the medical profession, the impossibility of predicting and preventing many of the adverse consequences of childbirth and a system of health care provision predicated on a localised budget (NHS trusts), and it is any wonder that doctors are reluctant to own up and say sorry?

If the NHS really wants a method of telling patients the truth when things go wrong, the system of compensation for victims of medical accidents and negligence must be centralised. This would also reduce the suffering of those who have to pursue an adversarial course for years before receiving justice and fairly compensating those whose children, for example, are damaged by a medical accident and are currently entitled to very little.

Mr L J ROBERTS MRCOG  
Consultant Obstetrician and  
Gynaecologist  
Winterton, Lincolnshire

## Cannabis therapy

Sir: With the publication of the Lords report on medicinal cannabis, I thought it prudent as a cannabis-using multiple sclerosis sufferer and a representative of the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, to present the views of the people most affected by the blanket prohibition of cannabis.

There are thousands of sick people throughout the UK using cannabis and finding it of benefit for many illnesses. If we carry on using cannabis we are leaving ourselves open to criminal prosecution, but if we obey the law and desist from the practice we are faced with the very real possibility of our condition worsening.

It must be understood that we are not hedonistic, irresponsible teenagers, but ill people who find themselves in the absurd position of being denied the one effective means of palliative treatment available to them by, in many cases, the party they had supported at the general election. It is disturbing that instead of endeavouring to institute objective research into the medicinal properties of pure cannabis, the Government, without scientific justification, seems to take some satisfaction in denying us this vital medication.

I did not expect, or intend, to be in conflict with my own government at this point in my life - MS itself is a daunting foe - but this government must surely have the wisdom to understand that we are no threat to society's stability, but just incurably ill people wishing to treat themselves as they and in most cases their doctors, see fit. It is an absurdity, if not an obscenity, to be forced to seek our medication from criminal sources.

ANDREW COLDWELL  
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

## 2000 bug looms

Sir: Your coverage of the growing fears over the Millennium Bug exposes the failure of politicians to insist on the necessary action on the part of government ("Troops on standby for 2000 bug chaos", 5 November).

Many experts believe that it is now too late to avoid problems and that it is essential that contingency plans be in place and thoroughly tested. When I raised this issue with the then Prime Minister in 1995 I was assured that his government was taking the action necessary. The following year it launched the Taskforce 2000 awareness campaign, which the Labour government immediately shelved - losing six crucial months before replacing it with Action 2000.

However, if the last government had had the foresight to allow my Companies (Millennium Computer Compliance) Bill to become law in 1997, obliging directors to report on the readiness of companies to their shareholders in the annual report, Britain today would be better prepared. So it would be if the present government had not "objected" to my Millennium Conformity Bill, which would have safeguarded essential public services and infrastructure. I hope that it will support the Computer Millennium Non-Compliance (Contingency Plans) Bill, which I intend to introduce early in the next session of Parliament.

Finally, there is no internationally agreed standard of millennium compliance. Thus, I hope that governments will urgently respond to my amendment to a recent Council of Europe report on the global economy (Resolution 1167) calling for such a definition, and for a world test day which would allow good time to take the further action necessary to correct those problems which are certain to be exposed.

DAVID ATKINSON MP  
(Bournemouth East, C)  
House of Commons  
London SW1

## Outed

Sir: It would appear that Tony Blair's cabinet is actually turning out to be more of a closet.

DAVID McNICKLE  
St Albans, Hertfordshire

ping down any leylandii you see.

• Did you remember to pick up all the dead fireworks from your garden after your bonfire party?

• Did you remember to have a bonfire party?

• Well, never mind, don't worry, because these days shops sell fireworks all the way up to the New Year. Bring home all those leylandii trees you've been collecting and have a great bonfire!

• Finally, have a good general clear-up and get rid of all rubbish such as old newspapers blowing round with headlines like "Local Police In Search For Maniac Leylandii Killer Now Suspect Sheep Farmer May Be Involved".

## It's autumn - so check your lawnmower for Lord Lucan

IT'S TIME for another monthly check-list of things to do in the garden. and while November is very much a tidying up and clearing month, there are still plenty of things you can do to help plan for next year. So read this list and get cracking.

• Have you burnt your Christmas tree from last year yet? Many of us just push it under the bushes, planning to put it on the bonfire later, and leave it there indefinitely. Go and locate it under the bushes, and pull it out. If you are not planning to have a bonfire just yet, or if it is too wet, push it back under the bushes, together with all the previous year's Christmas trees.

• Rake all leaves from off the lawn. When you are half-way

through, realise that the half you have just cleared has already been covered by more leaves, freshly blown down. Abandon leaf-raking.

• Have you given your lawn its last cut of the year yet? The answer is yes, no matter how long it is. Long grass survives the winter better.

• Now would be a good time to put your lawnmower in for its annual servicing, when it isn't needed at home. On the other hand, everyone else in the world will be putting their mower in for servicing too right now, so why join the queue? Wait till the springtime to put it in, when you will be needing a good excuse for not mowing the lawn.

• If you really can't be bothered this year to get your lawnmower

serviced, or if you think it won't survive another year, it's time to think seriously about getting a small flock of sheep in, which will keep the grass level down and attract a good Brussels sprout. Sheep are going very cheap at the moment. I believe.

• If you followed my advice last year and got a flock of sheep, now is the time to put them out into winter pasture.

• Have you put your sundial back one hour? If not, do it sooner.

• If you live on a National Trust property, now is a good time to search the grounds for missing visitors, absconding West Indian cricket captains, Lord Lucan, Salman Rushdie, etc.

• Incidentally, have you noticed that before the fatwa was withdrawn against Mr Rushdie, you

could hardly switch on the TV or radio without finding him defiantly there, on screen or on air; but now that he is comparatively safe in public, he seems to have gone into hiding? Not exactly a gardening point, but interesting, I think.

• If you live on a National Trust property, now is the time to make sure your "No Stag Hunting" notices are clean and legible. Or is it "Stag Hunting Encouraged" notices these days? Hard to remember. Whichever...

• Now is the time of year when mice start nesting in bigger kinds of gardening glove.

• Drag your pond for dead berons.

You won't find any, but you will be surprised by what you will find. If you don't want to be surprised by what you will find, then don't.

• Now is the best time of year to plant fresh bulbs in your outdoor security lights.

• This is a good time to go out and fiercely cut back your leylandii trees.

• If you haven't got any leylandii trees, now would be a very good time to go out and fiercely chop back your neighbour's leylandii.

• If there aren't any leylandii trees in your neighbourhood, now would be a good time to take a chainsaw and go out in your pick-up truck in the surrounding countryside, chop-

ping down any leylandii you see.

• Did you remember to pick up all the dead fireworks from your garden after your bonfire party?

• Did you remember to have a bonfire party?

• Well, never mind, don't worry, because these days shops sell fireworks all the way up to the New Year. Bring home all those leylandii trees you've been collecting and have a great bonfire!

• Finally, have a good general clear-up and get rid of all rubbish such as old newspapers blowing round with headlines like "Local Police In Search For Maniac Leylandii Killer Now Suspect Sheep Farmer May Be Involved".

MILES KINGSTON

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MILES KINGSTON

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## We must never forget how we are shaped by the past

MUCH OF Britain will fall silent at 11 o'clock this morning. If only for a couple of minutes, we will mark the hour of Armistice in 1918 with silence. We will remember all those who died in so many places, the names of which evoke shudders like half-forgotten nightmares: the Somme, Gallipoli, Ypres. And although Armistice Day is especially associated with the First World War, those who have died in other, more recent conflicts - the Second World War, Korea, Malaysia, the Falklands - will not be far from the thoughts of us all.

Nor will such thoughts be idle matters, for there is another conflict, as yet unresolved, which demands attention: that in Northern Ireland. It is not fashionable in these ironic and cynical days to draw lessons from history. Fascinated with the latest scandal, natural disaster or war, we forget that our world has a history; everything around us has been shaped by the past.

This is apparent in the relations of a secularised and consumerist Britain with an Ireland much closer to its memories. British politicians have, in the past, adopted the pose of exasperated schoolmasters talking to squabbling children: they have not been helped by that subconscious claim on superiority.

There are signs that this is changing. Tony Blair will soon become the first British Prime Minister to address the Irish Parliament. Yesterday, the symbolism of Prince Philip's visit to Dublin was encouraging. He walked, perhaps, where the Queen will soon follow - and on ground lost to Britain in 1921. Such gestures are not meaningless. They are a vital part of establishing normal relations between neighbours, just as much as the removal of the Republic's constitutional claim on the North or the prospective cross-border bodies.

Irish and British history has been shared: those Irish volunteers from the South, who died in Belgium and France, died alongside their British comrades. Only once, on the Messines Ridge at Ypres, did they fight alongside their Northern Protestant neighbours. But that is just as important historically as all the atrocities the two communities have inflicted on one another. The graves at Ypres are a symbol that Ireland can be shared by two traditions, who have sacrificed so much to a mutual hatred that need never have taken hold.

A similar symbol will be the presence of the Irish President and the British Monarch on the Messines Ridge. There, they will inaugurate a peace tower built by people from both sides of the border, and from both traditions. This will be another step towards reconciliation.

Today, we will remember. But the memories can be applied to our world of arms decommissioning and "confidence building". Remembering Messines should help to make sure that fewer brave young men die in the future.



## introducing ... Mike Port & STEREOLIVE

### Some welcome revision from Mr Blunkett

IN THEIR final guidelines on the teaching of primary school pupils, the Government has altered tack on homework. This can only be a good thing, since there was always a question mark over whether children as young as seven or eight could cope with 40 minutes of work per night, after coming home from school. Now the total for younger primary children has been pegged back to 20 minutes, the Government's policy seems much more realistic.

Homework is something of which everyone is in favour. There is no doubt that work in the evening can really boost children's performance in class. David Blunkett is rightly

an apostle of learning at home. For years, schools' laissez-faire attitude to homework meant that more ambitious parents could secure an advantage for their offspring, buy-

ing up books and extra tuition so that their children could outstrip those from families who could not afford them. Many less advantaged children need the motivation of having their work looked at by their teachers, especially if the home environment is not conducive to study.

The homework clubs for which the Government has announced further Lottery funding - to the tune of £220m - are also a very good idea. Some children like studying somewhere with their friends; a supportive atmosphere, with some different teaching, does not seem quite so much like work as sitting alone with a book. Learning in that engaging atmosphere may be a way of interesting children. Setting up societies appended to football clubs should make those centres even more attractive. Encouraging parents, especially fathers, to read to children is also a helpful break with past indifference to such issues.

The Government is not retreating from its principles.

The hours of homework it has set for secondary pupils will remain the same, vital if GCSE and A-level work is to be properly considered and revised. But what the Government has realised is that there is no point overburdening very young children with too much work. It would be counter-productive to crush imaginations with written work and reading timetables, rather than allowing children and their parents to find their own way. British industry and society, as the Government has recently emphasised, has always been best in the creative and artistic fields. There should be no attempt to turn childhood into the "grey years" spent toiling in Japanese schools.

Too much work and too little imagination is the bane of our society. Our adult life is well on the way to US-style marriage to the job; it is at least questionable whether this has made Britain a more prosperous or happy place. There is no need to infect primary schools with this "work ethic". Mr Blunkett has recognised this, while still insisting on homework targets and standards, and pressing ahead with New Labour's more creative ideas. He should be praised for his willingness to listen.

## I will not be exterminated by the Daleks from Millbank

BY THE time you read this, the London Labour Party executive will have decided how to select their candidate for Mayor of London. As I write, all the indications are that they will establish a vetting panel to judge ideological suitability, thus opening the prospect of a long and damaging row.

Oddly enough, I believe that at yesterday's Downing Street briefing Alastair Campbell told journalists that Tony Blair was opposed to any attempt to blackball myself as a candidate. Although some wicked journalists have been implying that this is an attempt to provide a little cover in a difficult week, I can only proceed on the basis that my leader is telling the truth. He is, after all, "a pretty straightforward kind of guy". Perhaps then, problems come from lower down the food chain.

The internal life of the Labour Party has been transformed. Discontent has slowly rolled around the country over the selection of our candidates for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and London Authority, and the European Parliament.

Most could have been avoided if it had not been for the Dalek faction of Labour's Millbank Tendency, whose self-appointed job it is to wage war on the ordinary party members. We have got to sort these nutters out before they undermine our attempts to actually win any of the devolved bodies over the next 18 months.

The central question for many party activists is that of why the system of One Member One Vote (OMOV) has been quietly dropped by the Labour Party, with barely a mur-

mur from the very people who pushed for it. From the late Eighties onwards OMOV was used by the "modernisers" against the trade unions' role in the Labour Party, and against the supposedly undemocratic influence of the activists. The Davros of Labour's Daleks is the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, once a left-wing organisation, now a front for lobbyists and apparatchiks, which tells us on its website that "the principle of OMOV by postal ballot should be extended to elections for constituency officers, delegates to conferences and local government candidates."

Where are these advocates of OMOV now? The system for selecting the Euro-candidates meant that the selection of who will be on the list - and, crucially, at what place they were to be on the list - was done at the second stage by a joint panel of NEC members and regional representatives. Dennis Skinner and I proposed as an amendment to these proposals at an NEC meeting several months ago that there should be an OMOV ballot to decide the ranking of the candidates at the final stage. No one else voted for it. Regardless of the rhetoric about giving power to the members instead of a "small activist and union-dominated committee", the NEC gave the decision to... a small activist-dominated committee.

At one of the last NEC meetings I attended before I was sent into exile, the outcome of this process was finally revealed. The bizarre selection system has led to a series of inexplicable decisions and genuine exasperation among party members. As *The Inde-*

*pendent* pointed out yesterday, Christine Oddy MEP, sitting Labour member in the West Midlands, has been placed in seventh place on a list of eight in her region. Under the closed list system, voters will have no chance to put her higher on the list, and unless Labour experiences its biggest ever landslide, she has no chance of finding her way back into the European Parliament.

Christine Oddy has been done over because she does not conform to the prescriptions of a few people sitting in a smoke-filled room. She is a left-winger. To add insult to injury, she will almost certainly go down to defeat while watching Michael Cashman, who has been parachuted into the region and straight into number two on the list, sail to victory. Why were the members not able to choose?

These manoeuvres are not merely designed to stifle the left. Take the example of Carole Tongue MEP, a senior and very popular member of Labour's European team, who was ranked by an NEC-London Labour Party panel in fifth place for the closed list system of election - again a position the party may struggle to win. The NEC insists that the final ranking was determined purely on the basis of a four-minute presentation and interview. The idea of relegating a senior and influential MEP on such a basis is frankly irresponsible. One member of the Greater London Labour Party regional board tried to pretend that this was not a denouement. The problem with that argument is that we can never know, because it was all done secretly.

If the situation with the European elections has not yet etched itself into the public's consciousness, the same cannot be said of the problems the control freaks are creating for themselves in Scotland, Wales and London. The paradox is that the Government seems willing to devolve power, but the party is not. Scottish MPs have been deemed unsuitable for the Scottish Parliament. Furthermore, the panel imposed to weed out candidates put just one ethnic minority candidate on the shortlist, and excluded prominent and well-respected women activists, giving the lie to the idea that only a centralised party can ensure the proper representation of women and black people.

The Scottish Commission for Racial Equality raised question marks over the poor representation of the black communities, and the Scottish National Party had an easy time exploiting the whole process.

This is all just dreadful politics. Labour's election strategists must be able to see that this is not popular with the electorate. According to the polls, Rhodri Morgan is popular with the electorate, a situation reflected inside the party, where he would win under a One Member One Vote ballot to lead Labour in Wales.

A similar process has taken place in London. Under the PR system we are proposing for the London Assembly elections, Labour would have won 13 seats out of the 25 on the basis of the votes cast at the general election. Had Assembly votes been cast in the same proportions as at this May's local elections, Labour would have won 11 seats to the Tories' nine and the Liberals' five.

Personally I am in favour of Labour winning elections, which means selecting candidates from the widest and most representative pool, and taking the troops with you. It also means fighting your enemies and not constantly sowing the seeds of poor morale within your own ranks. I just wonder whether there are some extremists who would rather see Labour lose these elections than fight them with an ideologically impure candidate. Just for your information, contrary to what disinformation may be spread in coming days, I will not be leaving Labour to stand as an independent. If I am carved up, I will stay inside the Labour Party and fight to reclaim it.



**KEN  
LIVINGSTONE**  
We must sort these nutters out before they undermine our attempts to win any of the devolved bodies

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When I went to see *Fatal Attraction*, I never believed it could ever happen to me."  
Geoffrey Boycott, cricketer and commentator

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."  
Albert Einstein, German physicist



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THEIR MEMORY deserves better than this mediocre display. The Chemin des Dames mutineers, already imprisoned in history, have now been taken hostage by polemic and snatched by the cross-party cohabitation. Jospin gave homage to the men who were gunned down "to be made examples of" to the soldiers who, exhausted by their useless attacks, stood up against orders which were sheer madness - to the soldiers who were willing to

fight but unwilling to commit suicide. Jospin's initiative was welcomed by the French who had learned from school that these men were not mutineers, but rather martyrs. By judging Jospin's remarks as inappropriate, Chirac has committed a crass mistake for a state leader to make: that of not understanding the French. *Le Journal du Dimanche*

BETTER LATE than never: official France has begun to

recognise that our official national history does not necessarily correspond with the truth. But we must continue this work on our memories and collective identity. Other taboo

stills which have not yet been shattered. Massacres of civilians by the French army at Sétif and Madagasgar after the Second World War; systematic torture during the war in Af-

geria. There is clearly a lot of ground to cover before France can make peace with its past. *Le Monde*

WAS IT "inopportune" to recall this truth on the eve of Armistice? Should Jospin have waited until 12 November or 1 April to allude to it? Is Armistice a chance for us to exalt our courageous soldiers of yesterday or a time to reflect, with a minimum of dignity, on the shortsightedness and

*Liberation*

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
French opinion on Lionel Jospin's decision  
to pardon First World War mutineers

On the 80th anniversary of the Armistice, three very different views on how we should commemorate the victims of war



### PODIUM

**EARL HAIG**  
From a speech by the 2nd Earl about his father, Field Marshal Haig, at the opening of an Armistice Day exhibition at Cambridge University

AMONG MY father's diaries there is the entry for 11 November 1918. It is clear that he had mixed feelings about the way things were handled by the French Marshal Foch.

I quote: "At 5am the Armistice was signed. The Germans pointed out that if the rolling stock and supplies of the army (which had to be handed over by the terms of the Armistice) are given up, then the Germans east of the Rhine will starve. Report says that Foch was rather brutal to the German delegates and replies that that was their affair. We heard this morning that the Kaiser is in Holland."

"If the war had gone against us no doubt our King would have had to go and probably our army would have become insubordinate like the German army. Remember John Bunyan's remark on seeing a man on his way to be hanged - 'but for the grace of God, John Bunyan would have been in that man's place!'"

My father wanted to insist on strong naval terms, but in other ways the Armistice was in his view too exacting. By hitting the Germans too hard we would build up resentment and the thirst for revenge. In 1922 Hitler proclaimed: "We do not pardon. No, we demand vengeance."

My father realised that a difficult economic climate in Germany would result in a breakdown of good government and the eventual introduction of the jackboot. He was a realist. He believed that it was an illusion to think that the German armed forces would not re-emerge and a war would not have to be fought again. Had the terms been more lenient the Germans might have evolved as a democratic power. There would have been no Holocaust, no bloodbath on the Russian front, no casualties in North Africa, no D-Day, no Singapore, no Pearl Harbor.

Looking back to the early years of my own generation, we were thankful for a few years of peace. We were ready to enjoy all the pleasures that came our way. When war came again our generation rose to the occasion and joined the colours.

My father was a strong leader. His leadership during the latter part of the war, and particularly in 1917 when we had to take the pressure off the French, was a big factor in the battles of 1918 which led to final victory... For that victory it was to all those who served with him that my father expressed gratitude. When he was congratulated he said "Don't congratulate me," pointing to a nearby soldier. "It is fellows like him who deserve congratulations."

## There was no poetry for Uncle Herbert

IT WAS not much of a diary - a penny notebook fastened by elastic inside a cheap leatherette wallet that his sister Augusta had sent him in anticipation of his 17th birthday. But it began as English adventure stories have begun for 600 years: "Embarked for France."

Ten days later, Herbert Hattersley, Private 2042, the 1/7 Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters, the Notts and Derby Regiment, "went to trenches with 1st Hampshire. Relieved after 24 hours. CV Shepherd killed by accident."

After that it was a litany of death. "Went up to trenches in motor buses, went to place where big advance was made, hundreds of dead lying on the ground."

Even when his friends were killed he made his entries with the same laconic brevity. "Our Division made an attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Jack Burton was killed on the same day. We were relieved from the trenches and went for a rest."

Only the final page records more than the bare facts. First it lists "battles since I arrived in France: Plugstreet, Kemmel, Houge and Sanctuary Wood (all Ypres), Vieille Chapelle, Mont St Eloy." Then it repeats the story of how Jack Burton died.

"Jack was killed in a bayonet charge. I think that he was hit in the head by a piece of shell. He was 17



**ROY HATTERSLEY**  
Anything that makes the First World War seem noble mocks these men and their memory

and a week when he first came to France. Pte H. Timpson was killed trying to bury him."

It would be foolish to talk of premonitions. Bert had no time for anything so fanciful. He was a labourer in the packing department of a company, who had joined the territorial when he was barely 16, because a recruitment poster promised a fortnight's summer camp at "Fascinating Flyle". And although his terms of engagement did not require him to serve abroad, he had volunteered for active service rather than risk the contempt

of his newly found comrades-in-arms. When he died on the Somme on 1 July 1916, he was not quite 19.

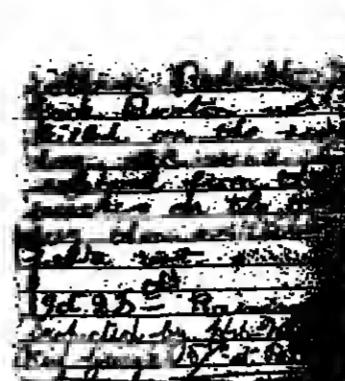
They found the diary in his billet in Bienvilliers. Folded inside were three letters from home. Bert's religious mother ended with a pious hope: "Bless you and may He send you safely home." My father, his 12-year-old brother, was infuriatingly philosophical: "I expect that you are sorry that you haven't had leave before now, but your turn will come." Augusta, who gave him the notebook and the wallet, told him that another brother, Leslie, was giving Alice Smith the glad eye. The messages were all written in careful ink. Bert wrote in indelible pencil, turned blurred and purple by the incessant rain.

It had rained for more than a week before the day of battle, and the downpour was more difficult to bear than the shelling. The Sherwood Foresters were wet in the trenches and wet in their dugouts. On the eve of the big push, they waded knee-deep through the mud of the supply trenches to their position 600 yards to the right of Gommecourt Wood. Bert, in C Company, was part of the third wave to go over the top. The official history describes it as being "virtually annihilated". The enemy machine-guns were trained on the gaps in the British barbed wire. The few men

who survived to advance into no man's land found that the Allied artillery bombardment had left the German wire intact, and they were caught like fish in a net. Of the 600 Sherwood Foresters who went into action, only 90 came out.

Bert's diary, in all its brief inadequacy, is not much of a record of the war in Flanders. But it leaves no doubt about the nature of the men who died like cattle, with only the monstrous anger of the guns for passing bells. Not for them the poetry of war - even if that, according to Wilfred Owen, is where the pity is to be found. Anything that makes the First World War seem like a noble enterprise mocks those men and their memory. They may not grow old as we who are left grow old. But, by God, they would have welcomed the chance.

It was on their behalf that I caused some mild offence at last week's Wilfred Owen Festival by suggesting that much of the poetry that was written about the First World War would best be forgotten. The early verse, with all the nonsense about death bringing "rarer gifts than gold" and dead clerks going "to join the men of Agincourt" are hideously unforgivable. But even the poems of compassion give the butchery a grace that it did not possess. Last week's Wilfred Owen Festival included a Shrewsbury



Private Herbert Hattersley (right) and a page from his diary

School production of *Journey's End* - one of the worst plays written between the wars, and a travesty of the suffering caused by the First World War.

Isaac Rosenberg is, perhaps, the one exception. But Rosenberg was a private soldier without misconceptions about some corner of a foreign field being forever England. The only possible defence of those who once harboured such notions is that their false romanticism provides consolation and catharsis for the next of kin. It is a treacherous sort of comfort, encouraging the belief that the sacrifice of 4 million was better than a sinful waste.

Bert's name is in the Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Church in Nottingham and on the monument at Thiepval to the dead who have "no known resting place". But - now that the brother who urged fortitude and the sister who bought the notebook are dead - nobody remembers how he was in life. We do not know how he would have grown up. All that is left is a penny notebook in a leatherette wallet, and three letters. And unto those who would have been his sons, he gives his immortality? Forget the poetry. Remember the men who could not spell the names of the battles in which they fought and died.

## Do today's public rituals hinder our understanding of war?

HAS REMEMBRANCE become an empty ritual? On this 80th anniversary of the Armistice of 11 November 1918, the question needs to be addressed by anyone who is contributing to (and profiting from) the immense public interest in the First World War.

There are a lot of us at it. At least five new history books have been published in the past few weeks to coincide with the anniversary. And in many ways we historians are bringing up the rear. Novelists such as Pat Barker and Sebastian Faulks were quicker to tap into the public's surprisingly long-lived interest in the subject, surprising because so few people are still alive who actually remember the war.

I would be lying if I denied that I set out to publish a book about the First World War to coincide with today's anniversary. Quite apart from book sales, it seemed a good time to get people to think again about the war, as the media would be likely to give it more space than usual. As they have. But nothing quite prepared me for the scale of the coverage. Nor was I quite prepared for the rather eerie homogeneity of it all. A poppy on nearly every newspaper masthead (as well as on my own book jacket). Umpires at the Centenary. The Queen Mother, red-eyed. Relatives of the men who were shot for cowardice. Frail old men in wheelchairs, sporting belatedly conferred medals from the French.

Interested historians (in both senses) such as myself and John Keegan have done our best to debate what the war was all about: why it started, why it dragged on, why it stopped. But I have the strange feeling that, for many people, our arguments are neither here nor there.

Remembrance, I have believed, is to come to see, is not the same as understanding. Let me say right about that I do not for one second begrudge the British Legion the money they make from the sale of poppies. And I raise a glass to all those old men who are still going strong, having survived not only the trenches but everything else the 20th century had to throw at them.

The most impressive thing about the survivors, it should be said, is their honesty about the experience.



**NIALL FERGUSON**  
Nothing prepared me for the scale of the anniversary's coverage, nor its eerie homogeneity

The most recent interviews I have heard or read testify once again to the strange ambivalence of the men who fought the war - the odd mixture of understatement about its nastiness and nostalgia for the comradeship and even black comedy of Army life. As the veterans' most faithful recorder Lyn Macdonald recently remarked, the old soldiers very rarely use the word "horror".

The troubling thing for me is the difference between their remembrance and our remembrance. What exactly are we, who are too young to have been involved in any way in the fighting or to have experienced the loss of close friends and relatives, really doing at Remembrance services?

A visit to the Imperial War Museum's current excellent exhibition on the history of remembrance sheds light on these questions. It is a very moving exhibition - there were certainly tears in my eyes as I read the letter one soldier wrote to his wife on the eve of a battle he did not expect to survive. But what makes it moving is principally the thought of others' private grief, and not the public paraphernalia of remembrance.

From the moment the war began, a huge number of people lost fathers, sons, brothers, husbands, boyfriends and friends. All told, the war claimed more than 9 million lives, more than one in every eight of the 65.8 million men who fought in it.

Such casualties naturally generated a huge quantity of private agony. The memoirs of those famous men who lost sons - one thinks of Rudyard Kipling - confirm the

universal truth that no pain equals the pain of losing a child.

To give a less famous example: Pte David Sutherland was killed during a raid on 16 May 1916, an ordinary Scottish sapper. Faced with the doleful task of breaking the news to his parents, his platoon commander, Lt Ewart Mackintosh - who had valiantly carried him back across no man's land - wrote a poem. It is a very ordinary poem, to which no student of English literature would give a second thought. It has none of the linguistic shock tactics of the war poets we revere today. Yet it is almost impossible to read it unmoved:

*So you were David's father, And he was your only son, And the new-cut peats are rotting, And the work is left undone,*



*Because of an old man weeping, Just an old man in pain, That will not come again.*

I find those lines almost unbearable. Yet it is worth recalling that David and his father were in a minority. "Only" around 12 per cent of British servicemen died in the war, leaving a good 88 per cent who (like my grandfather) came back alive, of whom only a minority were permanently incapacitated.

Moreover, because many men spent the war working on the home front, "only" 6 per cent of males between the ages of 15 and 49 were killed. Far from being intended to console the likes of David's father - what could? - the public rituals of remembrance devised after 1918 were primarily intended to communicate

this grief to those who had not lost relatives: for the lucky majority.

That was the point of Lutyens's Cenotaph, and of the thousands of local memorials erected around the country in the Twenties. That, too, was the point of the South African Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's suggestion that all Britain observe two minutes' silence on the 11th hour of the 11th day each November.

It was right, of course, to make the lucky majority mindful of the unlucky few. Yet from the outset there was (as there had been throughout the war) a simultaneous effort to justify what had happened, often using the "high diction" so loathed by Owen and Sassoon. Thus "the fallen" had "sacrificed themselves". Or to quote from the tomb of the unknown soldier buried in Westminster Abbey, they had died and given "the most that man can give life itself for God for King and Country, for loved ones Home and Empire for the sacred cause of Justice and the Freedom of the World."

We can still hear similar sentiments expressed at Remembrance services today. And perhaps that is why I have become suspicious of them.

Eight years on, I would like to think we have come far enough to question the reassuring assumption that the men who were killed in the First World War died for a good reason. I strongly doubt it.

The author is a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. His book, *The Pity of War* is published by Penguin Books

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IN0001

Flat batteries or power cuts are no problem for the Morphy Richards 'Green Machine' compact portable radio as it has no less than 4 power sources - and at just £14.95 (half Morphy Richards' recommended price) - it's a real snip.

Green Machine can be operated using its internal power and solar cells. When fully charged, these will give up to 8 hours of constant use - costing you nothing. Alternatively it will operate with two AA batteries or mains adapter (neither supplied).

Other features of this ingenious radio include:

high sensitivity FM/AM wavebands, LED power and tuning indicator, FM telescopic aerial and fold flat charging handle.

Compact, measuring just 17cm wide x 8cm high x 4cm deep. The Green Machine is on offer for just £14.95, including delivery - HALF THE NORMAL PRICE!

ASTOUNDING DETAILS about the New Age lifestyle at the top of the New Labour establishment continue to reach Pandora's ears. Most recently, a lady *feng shui* expert named Rosalyn Dexter was invited to inspect Nos 10, 11 and 12 Downing Street where she had tea and "chatted about my profession" with Murdo Maclean, private secretary to the Government's Chief Whip. *Feng shui* aims to restore "harmony" in the home by taking into consideration architecture, decoration and furniture placement. Yesterday Dexter told Pandora that she wasn't paid for her "chat", but "I did make comments". She particularly enjoyed "sitting in Churchill's famous leather chair where I was able to quote his *feng shui* remark". And what remark was that? "We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us." Perhaps that explains all the fuss about the rivalry between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown earlier this year: they simply moved into the wrong houses!

HE MAY have a delicate touch in the kitchen, but the sense of humour of Marco Pierre White (pictured) can sometimes be heavy-handed as a platter of Bavarian bratwurst. Take his new restaurant, set to open in the Regent Palace Hotel in a month's time, directly above

## PANDORA

Oliver Peyton's popular late-night basement brasserie, the Atlantic Bar & Grill. What has Marco chosen to name his new venture, where he will be trying to give Peyton a run for his money by offering "affordable glamour", a late licence, a night-club, a bar and a restaurant, for around 600? He's calling it *Titanic*. According to Peyton's press spokesman, Elizabeth Crompton-Batt, "Oliver doesn't get upset about these things. Basically, his feeling is that, if that's what Marco wants to do, just let him get on with it." Marco's publicist on *Titanic* is Elizabeth's ex-husband, Alan Crompton-Batt. He told Pandora yesterday that Marco "believes the *Titanic* will be his iceberg during the coming recession". Providing, of course, Peyton's *Atlantic* doesn't swallow it first.

YOU CAN scoff at the House of Lords, but then a moment comes along that makes you wonder how

we could ever do without the old duffers. Such a moment arrived recently when the following question was addressed to Her Majesty's Government: "Whether they will ensure that the answering-machine that the Ministry of Defence uses both to explain its policy on unidentified flying objects and to provide a facility for the public to report sightings is turned on at all times and not switched off outside working hours."

Scuff if you want, but you'll be deriding Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill Norton, one of this nation's foremost military minds and former Chief of the Defence Staff and chairman of the Nato Military Committee. He must know something.

JEFFREY ARCHER has made no secret of his admiration for New York City's tough-guy Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Now surely he will be joined by all British politicians when they read the following answer Giuliani gave to a journalist who dared to ask if he would be taking a poet-election day holiday with his wife and kids. "I think that's an insulting question. It's not your business the amount of time I spend with my children and my wife," Rudy snapped. "My private life is my private life and you should stay out of it."

IT WOULD be a slight exaggeration to report that Pandora has been overwhelmed by callers offering vital clues about the Tom Cruise lookalike lurking around Blockbuster video shops. However, one young woman in Milton Keynes, an avid fan of Tom Cruise who begged for anonymity lest her fiancee take umbr

## Ignore the hysteria over debt



DIANE COYLE  
The argument about debt relief is separate from the emergency needs of Central America

THERE ARE few problems whose solutions seem absolutely clear-cut, so what an enjoyable luxury it is when one comes along. Cancel the repayments of international debt owed by hurricane-blighted Honduras and Nicaragua? Surely it defies common sense for these two countries to be paying \$1.3m (£800,000) a day to their bankers while at the same time they are in desperate need of aid to tackle their catastrophe?

This is a bandwagon everybody can jump on. And so everybody has. France and Germany have leapt behind Britain in a call for debt relief. Gordon Brown and Clare Short yesterday announced a new fund to help Honduras and Nicaragua meet their international interest payments, putting in £10m from the British taxpayer, and making up for Ms Short's politically inept insistence last week that the debt question is irrelevant at a time like this.

Yesterday, the World Bank announced it had already found an extra \$100m in aid and would make sure that debt repayments did not get in the way of tackling the emergency. The need to be seen to Do Something about debt has rocketed up the international agenda.

Yet this time, as so often before, Ms Short's real mistake was to voice an uncomfortable truth that went down very badly indeed with the highly effective aid organisations lobbying for debt relief for the world's poorest countries. Emergency assistance was never going to be hamstrung by debt – but the hurricane has been hijacked by campaigners for debt relief.

The Jubilee 2000 coalition, calling for the cancellation of Third World debt for the new millennium, has helped to push a reluctant international community into setting up a much-needed programme of debt reduction for desperately poor countries. This plan to reduce the repayments to the IMF and World Bank by up to 40 countries to a level they can realistically afford finally got the go-ahead in 1996. While the UK was always in favour, other governments from the Group of Seven needed persuasion. The programme imposes tough conditions on the borrowers; but without the efforts of the campaigners there would not be any debt relief at all.



Are these Nicaraguan farmers helped in the rebuilding of their country by the writing off of international debt?

The aid groups are now using their moral authority, backed by the television pictures of awful suffering, to push for more. They have been aided by the slow and niggardly response of Western governments to the present crisis. But the argument about debt relief is genuinely an issue that is separate from the emergency needs of Central America.

There is no excuse for a wave of hysteria that exploits the death and hardship there to gloss over the fact that there are grounds for debate on debt relief.

There is, in fact, a very strong case to be made for greater generosity on the part of the leading economies and the IMF towards countries labouring under a burden of debt payments. These interest charges eat into the funds available for health and education, yet they were in many cases inherited from monstrous regimes that squandered loans on guns and palaces. The most glaring examples must be the likes of Zaire's President

Mobutu, and the Burmese military regime. The rich countries have had to be dragged kicking and screaming into the "highly indebted poor countries" (HIPC) initiative, forgiving payments on such odious debts. For little extra cost to their own budgets, they could have been far more generous about the terms of the debt relief and the speed at which it is applied. More important, they could have admitted that Western policy mistakes had played a part in creating the debt overhang.

However, meagre as it is, there is now a framework for lifting the burden on the countries most in need and least able to pay. Crucially, it insists that governments must run sensible economic policies and earmark the extra money for social spending in order to qualify. In other words, the IMF and other lenders are avoiding their past mistake of lending money with no questions asked about how it is used.

Nicaragua and Honduras are both on the list of the three dozen countries that will eventually benefit from the programme. The floods will, without any doubt, increase and speed up the amount of debt relief they will receive. There is simply no need for a new international initiative for this to happen.

Even so, you may object, how can it make sense for the two countries to continue with the repayments in the meantime, when their governments are badly in need of funds now? But this is a no-brainer only if you believe that the emergency overrides all other obligations. After all, there is nothing inherently illogical about paying money out on the one hand and receiving it with the other. We all do that when we pay our mortgage and at the same time bank our salaries. What matters is how all the flows of money net out.

As it happens – uncomfortably for the debt relief lobby – Nicaragua and Honduras have in recent years received more than they have paid out in interest. New flows have come in even as they have made repayments on old debts.

In 1996, Nicaragua received a net \$689m, compared to its interest payments of \$87m. Honduras paid out a net \$37m but was in previous years a recipient of new international funds. Both countries are due for debt relief under the HIPC plan, Nicaragua after next year, Honduras after 2001. The delay is caused by the requirement that they build a record of effective economic policies, but their qualifying date will almost certainly be brought forward following the emergency.

Beneath the headlines and hysteria, there is a fundamental disagreement between the campaigners and the world's rich governments. The latter, although now eagerly calling on each other to do more in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, do not believe in wiping the slate clean on past debts. They argue that this would remove any incentive for borrowers to run their economies well, would raise a question mark over the repayment of future debts, and would discourage private investors from lending

money to the world's poorest countries in the future.

The Jubilee 2000 campaigners want to see the old debts cancelled altogether. Certainly, it is hard not to sympathise with their outrage at the thought of governments which cannot afford simple health and schooling for their people having to repay hundreds of millions of dollars to the very richest governments in the world. The people are being made to pay with their life and health for the past follies of their leaders.

It is a genuine debate about how best to get to a future in which the quality of life of the world's poor reaches an acceptable standard, where clean water, housing, basic health care and education – the minimum necessary for human dignity – are available for all.

There are pros and cons on both sides of the argument, pitting realism against compassion. It would be a pity if the debate were to be drowned in a wave of publicity-generating hysteria.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

BARONESS JAY



The Minister for Women answers our critical leading article about the Women's Unit

YOUR ASSESSMENT of the role of the Women's Unit revealed a depressing tendency to read no further than the headlines.

Your leader agrees that young women face more problems than ever before. There is also no doubt that teenage girls often fail to live up to their potential. We owe it to them to find out more about why this happens and to introduce policies that tackle the problem. Highlighting the achievement of successful women, who may or may not be celebrities, can help young women to achieve more. We are not trying to impose role models on anyone. That would be not only patronising, but self-defeating.

We don't claim to have all the answers. We know the world of today's young women is far removed from that of 20 or 30 years ago. We need to know more about their aspirations and expectations, and the barriers to achieving them. It is why, over the next few months, Tessa Jowell and I will be travelling around the country talking to young women themselves and to those close to their world.

By way of questioning the role of the Women's Unit, you list appreciatively a whole raft of measures introduced by this government to improve the lives of women – the national child care strategy, the working families' tax credit, increasing child benefit.

I am glad you recognise the achievements of this government. I only wish you understood that the role of the Women's Unit is precisely to help shape these policies. That is exactly what the Unit has done – and will continue to do.

I, too, am not interested in tokenism or gimmicks. The Government was elected to create a decent society, one in which everyone has the opportunity to reach their potential. Policies that are better for all for women are better for all.

## Wild child who taught us to cook

## WEDNESDAY BOOK

ELIZABETH DAVID: A BIOGRAPHY  
LISA CHANEY, MACMILLAN, £20

ELIZABETH DAVID was 20 before she learnt how to make a cup of tea, and at about the same time her first attempt to cook lunch for herself resulted in a plateful of burnt onions. This was not surprising. Born in 1913, she came from the kind of English upper-middle-class family background that had nourished generations of kitchen staff, and for most of whose members cooking was a closed book.

The way to the kitchen, for those not themselves from the serving classes, was paved with social qualms. Her achievement was to change all that – partly in an access of outrage brought on by the terrible food of her childhood ("mutton and beef... boiled potatoes... slippery and slimy... greasy... stodgy"), and partly as a consequence of certain upheavals of the mid-century, including the Second World War.

It was some time before Elizabeth David lighted on her métier, but it was plain from the start that this spirited second daughter of a Conservative MP named Rupert Gwynne and a titled lady from Northumberland was destined

## WEDNESDAY POEM

AUGUST 1914  
BY ISAAC ROSENBERG

What in our lives is burnt  
In the fire of this?  
The heart's dear granary?  
The much we shall miss?

Three lives hath one life –  
Iron, honey, gold.  
The gold, the honey gone –  
Left is the hard and cold.

Iron are our lives  
Molten right through our youth.  
A burnt space through ripe fields  
A fair mouth's broken tooth.

From 'Poems of the Great War, 1914-1918' (Penguin, £2.99)

to make a mark in one of the professions. Among her inherited traits were a streak of aristocratic eccentricity and a full measure of Gwyne-Ridley pig-headedness. Thwarted in her ambition to be an actress (she wasn't good enough), she followed her nose to the South of France, setting sail in 1933 in a boat called the *Evening Hope* with her then lover, Charles Gibson Cowan – a flamboyant actor, writer and one-time tramp, about whom her family took a predictably snooty tone.

Truly, it was not an auspicious *entrée* to leave the country. War broke out and the pair were stranded for a time on the Riviera before getting away via Corsica, Italy (where a night's imprisonment awaited them) and a Greek island, and ending up in Cairo.

There Elizabeth found work as a librarian with the Ministry of Information. By the end of the war she had met and fallen under the spell of her mentor, Norman Douglas, enjoyed the expatriate sociability of Egypt and married an Army officer named Tony David, spending time with him in India before returning to an England ripe for the new gospel of gourmandism. A culinary prodigy was about to be born.

There's an Auden line about the impulse of "pallid" northerners, gastronomic ignoramus, to take themselves "southwards into a sunburnt elsewhere". A Mediterranean abundance and Epicureanism seemed the perfect antidote to listless post-war England with its rationing and other deprivations. Elizabeth David's earliest writings capitalised on the glamour of a garlic, olive and sun-drenched repertoire. There is no doubt that she almost single-handedly revolutionised concepts of cooking and eating in the middle of this century, first by lauding the dishes of France and Italy with their enticing piquancy and unadulterated ingredients, then by rediscovering an all-but-lost English tradition of wholesomeness and seasonal variation.

It was not only her recipes that got an entire

generation of would-be culinary sophisticates scurrying about in search of fresh wild thyme or black truffles, but her whole evocative, erudite and urbane approach to the business. Even those, like the late Angela Carter, who let David's "magisterial hauteur" get up their noses acknowledge her primacy among cuisine commentators. Just when it looked as though it might be discarded altogether, as convenience foods became available, she reinstated the middle-class stove.

About half-way through this exuberant biography of Elizabeth David, the life story takes a back seat. The culinary accomplishments, the

journalism, the *Book of Mediterranean Food, French Provincial Cooking*, the establishment of – and quarrels over – the Elizabeth David shop, and so on, all take over. Lisa Chaney goes about her work in a capable, though rather showy, manner, cramming in as much social and historical detail as she can muster. A pity, though, that she allows so many prominent figures in the David story to remain shadowy and vague.

It's a colourful life, what with its enlightened hedonism, sexual escapades, pioneering itineraries and strength of will, but it looks as though we shall have to wait for the authorised version by Artemis Cooper (due next September) to have a few of the outlines filled in. One thing we do learn: if Elizabeth David had a reputation for being a bit high-handed, this may be traced back to a misprint in her first book, published in an era of paucity and austerity. What should have read as a simple instruction – "Take 2 to 3 eggs" – came out as, "Take 23 eggs", no doubt to the alarm of its earliest readers.

PATRICIA CRAIG



Elizabeth David wrote partly in rebellion against terrible food in her childhood

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DILLONS  
THE BOOKSELLERS

# Rumer Godden

RUMER GODDEN survived a poisoning attempt, rare illnesses, the death of a baby son, abandonment by her first husband and destitution in the course of a writing career that spanned more than 60 years. The prolific novelist, playwright and poet - best known for *Black Narcissus* (1938), *The River* (1946) and *The Greengage Summer* (1958), all of which were made into successful films, was writing almost to the end. Her last book, *Cromartie vs The God Shiva*, was published earlier this year, when she was 90.

Born in 1907 in her uncle's house in Eastbourne, Sussex, "Peggy" (as she was known) spent her childhood until the age of 12 in India, now in Bangladesh. Her father controlled the traffic - the jute barges and paddle steamers - on the inland waterways around the town. The family lived in a vast mansion with each room as big as a ballroom, staffed by many servants.

It was a childhood rich in sights, sounds and, particularly, smells: the smells of urine and sewage and the lovely flowers of the thorn trees", she wrote later.

She was the second eldest of four daughters and felt ignored. According to her account, her eldest sister Jon (Jonquil) was beautiful and talented; her younger sister Nancy was her father's favourite and Rose was the beloved baby.

"I showed off like anything," Godden said, "but no one took any notice of me. I was so plain. It was hell being so close to Jon, but I lived in her shadow and that was the saving grace for me. To be ignored is the best possible thing for a writer. My writing was an effort to outdo her."

Ironically, Jon became a writer and the two sisters collaborated on several books. Rumer commented: "There are two schools of thought: one that she was a better writer than me - that's the family point of view. And there are others who think I'm the professional one. Jon, you see, married a rich man. I'm a great believer in 'the garret'."

At the age of seven Godden fell off a swing and damaged her spine, an injury that inhibited her physically throughout her life. Although she was envious of Jon, they were also very close. They went back to England together after the First World War to be educated at a High Anglican convent in East Grinstead. It was a horrid shock to send us



Jane and Paula, the couple had nothing in common: Godden loved literature; Foster, she said, thought Omar Khayyam was a curvy.

Her first novel, a children's book, was published in 1935 when she was 28. She had already had the germ of an idea for an "adult" novel, *Black Narcissus*, several years earlier when, on a picnic in Assam she saw a small tombstone for a nun who had died at the same age as she was then. Published in 1938, *Black Narcissus* immediately became a best-seller.

It was later made into a very successful film by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, which she disliked. Most of it was shot in a Surrey garden, the Himalayas represented by poles wrapped in muslin. "I saw it only once but never again. It is an absolute travesty of the book. I cannot bear it. Micky Powell said he saw it as a fairy tale, whereas for me it was true. The whole thing was an abomination."

In 1941 Godden's husband abandoned her to join the Army, leaving her with massive debts which she settled with the proceeds from *Black Narcissus*. She spent the war in Kashmir with her young children living as a peasant in a house without water or electricity. There, having recovered from a serious illness, she tried to establish a herb farm. A friend moved in, bringing a homicidal Indian cook with a specialty in preying upon European women, who put opium, marijuana and ground glass into their food, but only succeeded in killing the pet dog.

Godden moved back to England with her daughters in 1945 and set about making her living as a writer. She married again in 1949, this time to a civil servant, James Haynes-Dixon.

"When I was a child the old shibboleth still prevailed that the men had contact with all the Indians but the women and children were not supposed to mix. We were not allowed to play with Indian children, nor with them. *A Passage To India* made me see we were like the Turtons. After that I astonished my father and mother by insisting that I had lessons in Hinduism and was allowed to visit Indians and speak to them."

In 1933 she met Laurence Sinclair Foster, an athletic charmer. She became pregnant by him and they married in 1934. The baby died four days after birth. She called that "a piercing grief, a sadness I carry with me for the rest of my days". Although they went on to have two daughters, Dixon who adored her, "It is very wonderful," she said in an interview last year, "to be loved and James was practically selfless. He would do anything for me, but it was not the other way round you see. I don't think I ever fell for any real man, not after Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. I've read the book over a dozen times and every time I fall in love with

growing up, growing out of, growing away from, and all the sadness that accompanies this". Although she had declared she would never let one of her novels be filmed again after her experience with *Black Narcissus*, she spent two years working with Jean Renoir on the film of *The River* (1951), her autobiographical novel about her childhood in India.

She moved house often. She lived for a while in Highgate, in north London (Margaret Rutherford lived upstairs) then in Henry James's house, Lamb House, in Rye, East Sussex (and claimed to hear the voices of Miles and Flora, the children in *Turn of the Screw*, when she was writing). This prompted the joke: "Who has Lamb House now?" "Rumer has it."

She regarded it as "the greatest two years of my life". "What I learned from Jean was absolutely extraordinary and I could feel myself growing as I worked with him. He was a wonderful man, a real genius." She went to Hollywood to write the script for the film and hung out with the stars of the day - Greta Garbo, Charlie Chaplin and James Mason.

She converted to Roman Catholicism in 1968, having become friendly with the writer Dame Felicitas Corrigan, a Benedictine nun at Stanbrook Abbey in Worcestershire. "I think nuns are irresistibly dramatic," she said. "Theirs is the greatest love story on earth."

Her husband James died in 1975. In her diary Godden wrote: "I never want to be consoled. I never want another man in my life." In 1977 she moved to Scotland to live with her daughter Jane and continued to write. She was appointed OBE in 1983 and in 1994 returned to India for the first time in 20 years to make a documentary about her life and work for the BBC. It was not an altogether happy experience.

Discussing writing, she once stated firmly that she never believed in self-expression. "All these young people, particularly women, say, 'We want to express ourselves', but writing is not self-expression. The writer is simply an instrument through which the wind blows and I believe it is the Holy Spirit that makes the artist creative. My

writing is something outside me that I've been chosen to do and I think that is what has enabled me to go on."

She had not been frightened of dying since she was a young child: "I used to cry at night because I was afraid my mother or Jon would die. Once I was weeping so much my mother was brought from dinner. She said, 'We cannot understand what is going to happen to us after death in much the same way that if we told a two-month-old baby that we were going to take it to America, the baby wouldn't have the faintest idea of what we were talking about.' And that is how I think of death. We have no idea at all of what is going to happen to us."

PETER GUTTRIDGE

Margaret Rumer Godden, writer: born Eastbourne, Sussex, 10 December 1907; OBE 1993; married 1934 Laurence Sinclair Foster (marriage dissolved 1948; died 1977; two daughters), 1949 James Haynes-Dixon (died 1973); died Dumfries 8 November 1998.



Sabu and Deborah Kerr in *Black Narcissus*, 1946, the Michael Powell / Emeric Pressburger film based on Godden's 1938 novel. Most of it was shot in a Surrey garden and the author hated it. "It is an absolute travesty," she said. Kobal Collection

Darcy I loved him far better than my own husbands."

She wrote a series of successful novels in the Fifties and Sixties, as well as many books for children. Her recurrent theme, another critic noted, was the collision of childhood ignorance with adult cruelty and passion. Another said that her books are all about "a loss of innocence, about

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## Paul-Annik Weiller

and she found herself hostess to Parisian luminaries such as Anna de Noailles and Jean Giraudoux. Paul-Annik was the only son of the marriage, born in Paris in 1933.

The all-consuming business interests of Paul-Louis, matched only by his smothering devotion to his wife, did not make for happiness. When the war began and he realised that he was in danger of arrest, he sent mother and son first to Biarritz and Lisbon and then to the United States. He himself was imprisoned

**His father amassed an immense fortune. It is a daunting assertion that, by the time Paul-Louis died at the age of 100 in 1993, Paul-Annik's empire was the larger of the two**

in France, but eventually escaped to Cuba, attempting to join his wife in New York. He reached Canada in 1943, but at this point she divorced him in Reno. Many bitter years followed, during which it must be said, the Commandant never ceased to adore her.

In 1945 Paul-Louis went to New York and settled at the Plaza on East 58th Street, while Paul-Annik and Paul-Annik were living on East 58th. They promptly left for England, where presently she married a young diplomat, John Russell, who rose to be ambassador in Ethiopia, Brazil and Spain.

Paul-Annik was raised in French until he was seven, learned Greek from his mother and English in

America. He began his schooling at Buckley in New York, only spending holidays with his father in Canada. Then he went to St Edmund's School, near Guildford in England, where he was a ward of the British court. In 1946 his father won an action and placed him in the prestigious Ecole des Roches in Normandy. His father drove him hard, withdrawing pocket money if his results were unsatisfactory. The shortfall was invariably made up by a kind housekeeper. In 1953 he was inscribed in the Paris lycée Louis-le-Grand, where he studied the arts in defiance of his father, who was determined he should read engineering.

In 1954 Paul-Annik attained his majority and instantly escaped from this authoritarian regime by secretly embarking on the *Queen Mary* for the States. Of his own free will, he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, studying engineering for two years, working 70 hours a week. He refused any financial support from his father, living off a modest inheritance from an aunt. This was a major rebellion and effectively made Paul-Annik his own man. It also won the approval of his father, and even more so when he defied parental fears by earning his diploma with a high pass mark.

In 1957 he undertook military service as a pilot in the French Air Force, serving in the Algerian war. He notched up a remarkable 1,000 flying hours and was decorated for valour. This achieved, he went to Munich, where his father had an interest in a chain of service stations, anticipating the arrival of the major oil companies from the US. Again defying his father's prognostications, he achieved great success, reselling the filling stations not for their real-estate value but for the cash-flow achieved by the gallons sold. The service stations were in due course sold with considerable profit as two networks to Gulf Oil and Getty Oil.

Following this, Paul-Annik became a businessman independent of his father. The rivalry between them was a driving force and it was Paul-Annik's victory that he held his father's respect without becoming his cypher.



Queen Ena of Spain, herself a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. The prospect of this union delighted his father for dynastic reasons, but his first question to the young bride was suitably disconcerting: "You are Italian. Can you cook pasta?"

Paul-Annik was as sweet-natured as she was beautiful and she and Paul-Annik were profoundly happy. They had six children between the years 1967 and 1985, two of whom died young. They divided their time between Geneva, France and Italy.

The first time I met Paul-Annik was at a daunting lunch in Versailles in 1984. The gathering included some distinguished Frenchmen, who had spent part of their youth at the Commandant's South of France villa, La Reine Jeanne. I had been invited to write the history of this villa. Paul-Annik asked me how I was getting on, and in turn I asked him if he had any advice. "Certainly," he replied. "If I was you, I'd jump out of the window." He added, "You won't do yourself any harm, we are on the ground floor."

For all the drive and energy he had inherited from the father, he wore it lightly. He was less intense, kinder and more sensitive. Physically a huge, powerful man, he was essentially gentle. He possessed an abundance of charm and a highly developed understanding of his fellow men.

In September 1994, almost a year after his father's death, he presided over the wedding at Versailles of his daughter Sibilla to Prince Guillaume of Luxembourg. It was a magnificent occasion, attended by a king, five queens and an empress and 1,300 guests. Outside the cathedral, as the bridal couple stepped out into the sunlight, the photographers shouted "Ici la mariée" or "Princesse de la France". When they then shouted "Allezee!", most of the congregation looked round.

HUGO VICKERS

Paul-Annik Weiller, businessman: born Paris 28 July 1933; married 1965 Donna Olympia Torlonia (four daughters, and one son and one daughter deceased); died Geneva 2 November 1998.

## Martin Eve

MARTIN EVE was a remarkable figure in post-war British publishing. He founded the Merlin Press in 1956 when he published G.B. Chambers's *Folk-song Plainsong* on the origins of English folksong, and worked continuously for Merlin until the week of his death.

Eve is probably best known for the books he published by the historian E.P. Thompson. Eve and Thompson enjoyed a lifelong friendship, which began at Cambridge, where Eve, an alumnus of Winchester Cathedral Choir School and the then progressive Bryanston, read *History of Corpus Christi College*. They had both served in the Second World War (Thompson in the Army, Eve in the Navy – he was present at D Day), and they returned to undergraduate studies filled with inspiration from their wartime experience. They were young men committed to building a better future, and like many of their generation they joined the Communist Party.

With Thompson and others Eve participated enthusiastically in volunteer brigades working to rebuild Yugoslavia. This led to an enduring interest in the Balkans and perhaps somehow shaped him as a 'partisan' – a word of defiance, comradeship and commitment that summed up so much of what he did.

After Cambridge Thompson joined the extra-mural department at Leeds University, and Eve went into publishing. He worked initially as a rep in the West Country for Michael Joseph and then carried the list to central London. It was a natural step for Eve to start his own list.

The year of 1956 was a momentous one for him. The Merlin Press began publishing in the spring, in September his political world was rocked by the Soviet Union's invasion of Hungary. A large group of dissenters, including Eve, left the Communist Party and joined the loose association known as the 'New Left'. Thompson eloquently expressed the new movement's open-minded views and its support for democratic socialism.

Eve published a series of books from the New Left in the late Fifties and early Sixties, most notably the work of Georg Lukacs, the Hungarian critic and philosopher, and *The Socialist Register*, edited by Ralph Miliband and John Saville – 'a survey of movements and ideas'. The Register was first published in 1964; it became a key forum for the Left, and has published continuously since.

Eve was a man of broad interests and entrepreneurial flair. In the 1960s he teamed up with the BBC producer Hugh Burnett to publish the Monk cartoon books that made a substantial contribution to Merlin's turnover at the end of each year. Eve published numerous

books on English history, initiating a distinguished historical reprint series; and he also secured the English rights to much of Stendhal's work. This is to say nothing of the sailing imprint 'Seafarer Books' that latterly became a major part of Merlin's publishing activities.

Brought up on the rivers of England's east coast this father, a proficient yachtsman, had retired to Orford in Suffolk; to run the Sutley Oysterage, Eve had inherited a love of the sea and sailing. In his own inimitable way he combined all these elements in his work, and would regularly take handbinding bookbinders, publishers and political enthusiasts for a weekend's sailing on his beloved Priotree. He sailed across to Copenhagen and Amsterdam on visits to bookbinders. Eve wrote a charming account of his and his family's adventures with *Privateer*

*His work in Yugoslavia after the war perhaps shaped him as a 'partisan' – a word of defiance, comradeship and commitment which summed up much of what he did*

in *An Old Gaffer's Tale* (1984), his own contribution to the Seafarer list.

In the mid-Seventies, typically canny and in advance of the Yippie invasion, Eve secured the freehold of a building on the Isle of Dogs where he published and warehoused the books, and took of distribution of other lists, notably Monthly Review Press and the distinguished American reprint list August M. Kelley. These were successful times for Merlin. Edward Thompson was in a prolific phase of writing and campaigning. Eve reissued in 1977 his marvellous biography of William Morris and published a series of his polemical essays – *The Poverty of Theory* (1978), *Writing by康奈尔* (1980) and *Zero Option* (1982).

The spread of a new political culture in the late Sixties had led to a proliferation of radical publishers and bookbinders. Merlin was joined by NLB/Verso, Pluto, Writers and Readers, Journeyman Press etc – lists whose titles sold well in campus bookshops and in the growing number of independent radical bookshops. Eve was a member of a different generation to those he perhaps regarded as the 'ties of '68' but he was always willing to offer advice and guidance, and through the Merlin Press provided a bridge into much mainstream publishing of the time.

Eve's engaging manner and quick mind made him a successful salesman (I was always amazed at the orders he could bring back from a bookseller), a fine publisher and a great companion. He also had a fierce determination, which sustained him through all the political, publishing and business challenges he faced – and latterly in the face of severe illness and disability. Following the diagnosis of cancer in 1996 he showed quite extraordinary will power and courage in facing his growing incapacity, undergoing a series of treatments, and yet continuing to run his publishing business,



Eve founded the Merlin Press in 1956 and ran it until his death

and surviving withdrawal from an unsuccessful partnership with another publisher. Through all this he was unstintingly supported by his wife Pat. He published for over 40 years and has left his mark through the Merlin Press. He began when publishing houses and firms embodied their owners' enthusiasms and when imprints had clear surnames identities – a different world from today when lists are bought and sold as branding shells for some new corporate initiative. He was working right up to his death, preparing the new *Socialist Register* for the printers, and taking steps to ensure the press's continuity.

DAVID MUSSON

Martin Weston Eve, publisher: born London 22 June 1924; married 1949 Betty Crawford (two sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved), 1981 Pat Kilshaw; died Woodbridge, Suffolk 26 October 1998.

WRITING *Testament of Youth*, her account of her First World War experiences in which she served as a VAD nurse and lost the four men closest to her; took Vera Brittain three years. Much of the book is based on Britain's own diaries and her letters of the time, especially her correspondence with her fiancé, Roland Leighton, and with her younger brother, Edward.

Edward

Brittain

had become a family hero after he was awarded the Military Cross for his part in his battalion's action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. In the last year of the war, Edward was transferred with the 11th Sherwood Foresters from Flanders to the snow-capped mountainous regions of northern Italy.

What a long war this is!

Edward had written to his sister at the end of 1917: 'It seems we'd better have lived so long through it when everyone else is dead.' But five months before the Armistice, Edward too was dead, and buried with four other officers in the British cemetery at Granezza. He had been killed at Asiago in the morning of 15 June 1918 leading a counter-offensive against the Austrians.

Edward's

death

was the loss from which Vera Brittain never wholly recovered. She had adored him as the closest companion of her youth and, as she wrote the section

of Edward's death: some described him as being shot by the enemy in full view of his men while others claimed that Edward had insisted on going ahead of the rest of his company, and that his body had only been found later after the fighting with a bullet through his head. Faced with the prospect of a court-martial when the battalion came out of the line, not to mention imprisonment and subsequent disgrace, had Edward shot himself, or deliberately courted death by presenting himself as an easy target for the sniper's bullet?

Vera Brittain never found a satisfactory answer to these questions. It was painful for her to acknowledge that there had been a side to his character which Edward had felt forced to conceal even from his beloved sister. On reflection, though, she recalled the wartime letters to her in which Edward had dropped his guard of self-containment, and spoken of his difficulties with women and his belief that he would probably never marry. What was most distressing was not the disclosure of her brother's sexuality, but the almost 'unendurable' thought of 'how bitter his last days must have been'.

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Alan Bishop and Mark Bostridge are the editors of *Letters from a Lost Generation: the First World War letters of Vera Brittain and four friends* (Little, Brown, £18.99).

## HISTORICAL NOTES

MARK BOSTRIDGE

## Hero of the Somme fatally outed

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## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

COOKE: On 3 November 1998, to Kim (née Hutchings) and Justin, a daughter, Harriet Jemima.

#### DEATHS

DYCKHOFF: Eric Bernard Charles, solicitor of Cheshire. Died peacefully on 8 November 1998, after a long illness. Widower of Muriel and Jean, and loving father of Elizabeth and Roy. Father-in-law of Cecilia, and grandfather of Livia and Max. For funeral details please contact Jonathan Alcock & Sons Ltd. Telephone 0161-428 2097.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages which must be submitted in writing), are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Our e-mail address is obituaries@independent.co.uk

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Professor Thomas Albion, physician, 95; Miss Bibi Andersson, actress, 53; Mrs Jane Barker, former finance director, London Stock Exchange, 49; Lord Carr of Hadley, former Home Secretary, 82; Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, 73; Mr Jonathan Fenby, editor, South China Morning Post, 56; Mr Roy Fredericks, cricketer and politician, 56; Mr Ron Greenwood, former football manager, 77; Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, deputy chairman, GEC-Marconi, 68; Sir Martin Jacobson, chairman, British Council, 69; Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor of Oxford University, 78; Sir Harold Kent QC, Commissioner to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, 95; Mr Rodney Marsh, cricketer, 51; Dr Indraprasad Patel, economist, 74; Professor Colin Platt, medieval historian, 64; Mr Terence Rooney MP, 76; Mr John Sheppard, former chairman, Norcros, 85; Sir Peter Shepherd, architect, 85; Mr Kuri Venugopal, novelist, 76; General Sir Walter Walker, former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Northern Europe, 87; Mr Gordon Wetherell, ambassador to Ethiopia, 50; Miss June Whithfield, actress, 73; Lord Wolfson, chairman, Wolfson Foundation, 71.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Frans Snyders, animal painter, 1579; Johann Albert Fabricius, classical

scholar, 1688; Fedor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky, writer, 1821; Jean-Eduard Vuillard, painter, 1868; Gustav VI Adolf, King of Sweden, 1883; George Smith Patton, US general, 1885; René Clair (Chouette), film director, 1898; Ivy Benson, handbinder, 1913.

Deaths: Johanna Zoffany (Zaufflie), theatrical painter, 1810; Soren Aabye Kierkegaard, philosopher, 1855; Ned Kelly, Australian outlaw, hanged 1880; Valentine Cameron Prinsep, artist, 1904; Sir Edward German (Edward German Jones), composer, 1886; Jerome Kern, composer, 1945; Fred Nible (Federico Nobile), film director, 1948; Victor Young, composer and conductor, 1956; Cyril Vernon Connolly, writer, journalist and critic, 1974; Alexander Calder, sculptor, 1976; James Hanley, novelist and playwright, 1985; Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov (Skrabin), Russian leader, 1988; Eamonn Andrews, television presenter, 1987.

On this day: work began on the Manchester Ship Canal, 1897; Washington became the 42nd of the United States, 1889; an armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany in the First World War, 1918; the two-minute silence for the dead in the First World War was first observed, 1918; the Cenotaph was unveiled in Whitehall, London, 1920; the first video recorder was demonstrated in Beverly Hills, California, 1952; Ian

Smith made a unilateral declaration of independence for Rhodesia, 1965; Israel and Egypt signed a cease-fire, 1973; in London, the new Covent Garden fruit and vegetable market opened at Nine Elms, South London, 1974.

Today is the Faast Day of St Bartholomew of Grottaferrata, St Mamas of Egypt, St Martin of Tours and St Theodore the Studite.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, 'Sacrifices of Poussin', The Triumph of Pur', 1pm; William Vaughan, 'Trash or Treasure? The National Gallery of British Art', 6.30pm (telephone 0171-742 2888 for tickets). Victoria and Albert Museum: Simon Mathews, 'Italian Sculpture: Donatello to Michelangelo', 2pm. Tate Gallery: Michael Parkin, 'Turner Prize Exhibition' 11am; Lynn MacRitchie, 'Turner Prize Exhibition', 1pm. British Museum: Lesley Fenton, 'Cycadic and Minoan Art', 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Anne Harvey, 'A Programme of First World War Poetry', 1.10pm.

Wallace Collection, London W1: Christy Phillips, 'Images of the Kings of France', 1pm. Royal Society, London SW1: Dr Gillian Bates and Dr Stephen Davies, 'Insights into the Molecular Genetics and Neuropathology of Huntington's Disease', 6pm. Foundation for Science and Technology, Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Trafalgar Tavern, Greenwich, London SE10, following a visit to the Millennium Dome, 6pm.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Geoffrey Hosking, 'Patronage and the Russian State', 6pm.

#### DINNERS

General Dental Council: Dr Margaret Seward, President, and members of the General Dental Council held a dinner yesterday evening at 37 Wimpole Street, London W1. Mr Christopher Kenyon, Chairman of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, who was accompanied by Mrs Kenyon, was the principal guest.

Queen Mary and Westfield College, London: Professor Adrian Smith, the Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, with Sir Christopher France, presided at a guest night held yesterday evening at the college, London E1. Among those present were:

Professor Igor Aleksander, Earl Attie; Mr Jack Cunningham MP; Professor Brian Fender, Dr Tim Holt, Professor Richard Morris, Professor Sir Alan Peacock, The Right Revd Dr Stephen, Bishop of Sleaford; Dr Mervyn Seeger; Mr David Smith; Mr Alastair Taha; Mr David Willets MP; Ms Diana Warwick; Mr Stanley Wright.

Foundation for Science and Technology, Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Trafalgar Tavern, Greenwich, London SE10, following a visit to the Millennium Dome.

A DEFENDANT who submitted to the jurisdiction of a foreign court in respect of a claim made against him also submitted to that court's jurisdiction in respect of other claims arising out of the same subject matter, or related claims. The foreign court was accordingly a court of competent jurisdiction for the purposes of English conflicts of law principles, and a default judgment entered in it could be enforced by the English court.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the defendant's appeal against the enforcement by the English court of default judgments entered against him in the Florida court.

The defendant, who had previously persuaded the plaintiff to pay over their savings into an alleged investment trust, asked them to put up both their properties as collateral for a loan he wished to take out.

The second plaintiff signed what he believed to be loan documents, but which were in fact documents conveying the properties to one of the defendant's companies. The defendant then mortgaged the properties as security for an advance. He made no payments on the mortgage, and the mortgagee subsequently foreclosed on both properties in the Florida court, bringing proceedings against the company and the defendant personally.

The plaintiff was also joined as defendant in the

Florida proceedings as 'unknown tenants in possession' who might have some interest in the properties. The proceedings were followed by an agreed stipulation for settlement between the mortgagee and the defendant, who claimed that the mortgagee had claimed foreclosure was invalid and void, and that they were the true owners of the property.

The plaintiff entered default judgments against the defendant in the Florida court in connection with the mortgagee's claim against him also constituted a submission to the court's jurisdiction for the purposes of the claims made against him by the plaintiff as

# WIN A WEEK LONG ALL-INCLUSIVE CLUB MED SKIING HOLIDAY.

Everyone can be a winner with The Independent this weekend. We've teamed up with Club Med and Rossignol to give away seven fantastic all-inclusive Club Med Ski holidays for two and seven runners-up prizes of Rossignol CUT 9.6 Skis. Plus a SPECIAL OFFER for every reader: FREE ski and boot hire when you book your ski holiday direct with Club Med.

With 26 top ski resorts world-wide, Club Med offers the ideal solution for those looking for an all-inclusive, hassle-free ski holiday, so you don't have to worry about unexpected extras! The holiday prize package includes:

- Return flights and transfers from London.
- Full board including wine with meals. • Ski Pass
- Ski tuition (full or half day). • Entertainment. • Insurance.

You could win an all-inclusive holiday at Club Med Leysin in the picturesque Canton de Vaud in Switzerland. Offering a tranquil Swiss mountain haven of spectacular scenery, Club Med's hotel-village is an excellent choice for families. Children aged 4 months and over are catered for at the Children's Club. (under 4 years extra cost) leaving parents free to relax and ski to their hearts content.

Adult prices at Leysin start from £488 for 1 week.

Rossignol are giving runners up prizes of seven pairs of CUT 9.6 skis. Worth approximately £200, the CUT 9.6 ski is the ultimate confidence builder offering fun and enjoyment for the athletic skier who wishes to carve turns with precision and control.

#### HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect any three tokens in The Independent and Independent on Sunday between Saturday 7th and Friday 13th November and send them together with your completed coupon to 'Independent/Club Med Ski Offer', Ref: 029, Sandylands House, Morecombe, Lancashire LA3 1DG. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 18th November 1998. All entrants will be sent a Club Med Voucher for your 'Free Ski and Boot hire'. Winners and runners up will be notified in writing, letters will be dispatched on or before Wednesday 25th November 1998.

Whether you are travelling as a family, couple, a group of friends or on your own, you'll find Club Med offers something for every age and inclination.

For a brochure call: 01455 852 202 and quote 'Independent Ski'. For direct bookings and enquiries call: 0171 581 1161 (0700 CLUBMED).

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) All entrants and guests must be 16 years old or over. 2) No purchase necessary. Missing tokens can be obtained by sending an SAE to: The Independent, Club Med Offer, 17th Floor, One Canada Square, London E14 5DL before the deadline. 3) The closing date for entries is Wednesday 18th November 1998. The winners will be notified by mail, these letters will be dispatched on Wednesday 25th November 1998 or before. 4) The holidays are as per the Club Med Winter 94 - 98/99 brochure and must be completed by the end of the season covered by this brochure (approx April 1999 depending on destination). 5) The prizes are seven all-inclusive one week holidays for two adults at selected Club Med Ski Villages subject to availability. 6) All holidays may be subject to alteration and change and exclude Christmas, New Year and Easter weeks. 7) The prizes are non transferable and can only be accepted as offered. There are no cash alternatives. 8) The seven sets of Rossignol CUT 9.6 skis for the runners up do not include bindings. 9) Photocopies, damaged or defaced tokens will not be accepted. Proof of posting will not confirm entry. We will not accept responsibility for items lost or damaged in the post. 10) Independent Newspapers shall not be liable for any costs, claims, injuries, damages or loss occasioned by any failure, however caused, to fulfil the terms of this promotion. 11) Employees of the Independent, their agents and members of their families and households are not eligible to enter. 12) No correspondence will be entered into and the Editors decision is final. Promoter: Club Med.

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THE INDEPENDENT

ROSSIGNOL



## 8/FEATURES



Farmers' markets offer a cornucopia of fresh, quality food – and the opportunity to sample before you purchase

David Rose

# Food, glorious food

Farmers' markets are springing up around the country selling top-quality produce direct to the public. The supermarkets should be worried. By Christopher Hurst

**N**ormally occupied by the wholesale vegetable trade, Southwark's 260-year-old Borough Market enjoyed a return to its glory days over the weekend. For three days, Londoners slurped oysters, sipped mulled cider, savoured smoked eel, nibbled venison, sniffed boletus fungi, chomped Bronze turkey with apricot stuffing, scoffed smoked duck eggs, salivated over rounds of Caerphilly cheese and gobbled chunks of hand-raised pork pie.

Organised by Henrietta Green, compiler of the invaluable *Food Lovers' Guide to Britain*, the Food Lovers' Fair drew together 50 of Britain's best specialist producers. "It's simply brilliant," declared Jennifer Paterson, half of the Two Fat Ladies, puffing on her Woodbine. "There should be one every weekend. Everyone would come. It's the kind of thing that the French, the Italians and the Portuguese never lost."

It seems that many others feel the same way. Over a dozen farmers' markets are now regularly held in the UK and many more are planned for next year. Offering an outlet for direct sales by small, specialist producers to customers, the name comes from the US, where the number of farmers' markets has grown from 300 in 1974 to 2,500 today. Each week, up to a million Americans do their shopping there. At the long-established market in Union Square, New York (one of 25 in the city), I saw perhaps two dozen stalls on a quiet Monday last June. Produce included bundles of organic asparagus, aromatic clumps of leeks, skeins of two-tone wool from Jacob's sheep and squares of wheatgrass, providing greenery for Manhattan's apartment-bound cat population.

According to one report, Union Square traders can make up to \$10,000 a day at weekend peaks, though there was little sign of such lucrative takings at the time of my visit. Of course, the idea of farmers' markets is not a new one – every one of the 6,000 weekly markets in France is to some extent a farmers' market – but they have almost completely died out in Britain since the Second World War (the Pauper Market in Barnstaple is a rare survivor).

"For the past half-century, British markets have been seen as a cheap dumping ground with little emphasis on quality," said Henrietta Green, who is now the patron saint of the small producer. "In order to overturn the idea of indifferent goods at rock-bottom prices, farmers' markets have to be regulated so we know that food is locally produced and to a high standard."

The British have to change their approach to food buying, she added. "We tend to think of shopping as a chore which needs to be done as quickly as possible. That's why people go to supermarkets, though they're quite stressful and harassing. Farmers' markets must be perceived as an enjoyable leisure activity. I'd like to think we'll all be dashing to them in the next few years, but it will be quite a rocky path for traders. People have to be persuaded to go and they must have confidence in what they're buying. Integrity is vital."

*"There's now a food élite in this country. It's not that they're rich but that they care about food"*

Nichola Fletcher, a venison producer from Auchtermuchty, pointed out that supermarket regulations were at odds with traditional production. "They can't take our meat. It's hung for three weeks, so it's got a high bacteria content. What they can't understand is that it's good bacteria. The battle against industrial farming has been fought by us from BSE. It made people stop and realise that good meat costs money."

Usually held fortnightly or monthly, farmers' markets are sometimes organised by local authorities, and sometimes by the producers themselves. With 20 to 30 stalls, the markets customarily combine organic with conventional produce. Unlike the Food Lovers' Show, farmers' markets are confined to local producers. The Bath farmers' market, held on the first Saturday of each month under the handsome Victorian arches of the disused Green Street railway station, insists that

parson with ordinary markets. There's always somebody who can produce things cheaper, but we're offering a totally different standard of food."

Experts agree that farmers' markets have to set up their stalls well away from ordinary street markets. Any attempt to combine the two is usually disastrous.

The Bath initiative has been followed by farmers' markets at Bristol, Frome (where 5,000 attended on the first day), Glastonbury, Bridport, Gloucester and Cullompton. Breaking the west country monopoly, events have also taken place in Wolverhampton, Holmfirth and Lewes, with others planned for Ashford, Winchester, Chard, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. At least three are being considered for London – Islington, Notting Hill and Borough Market.

Local authorities see farmers' markets as a way to reinvigorate town centres made moribund by out-of-town supermarkets. Last week, a seminar on farmers' markets organised by the south-eastern region of the NFU drew 30-odd council officials from Surrey, Kent and Sussex. "It's not simply a question of putting a few stalls in the market," warned Harriet Festing, an expert on American farmers' markets who works for Ashford Borough Council. "You require professional management and entertainment." One US market features a cannon which fires pumpkins; rock bands, jugglers and cherry-stone spitting competitions are more conventional attractions.

Despite the mushrooming growth of farmers' markets, success is by no means guaranteed. Of the 20 set up last year, about a quarter flopped. The seminar was mysteriously informed that Horsham farmers' market collapsed due to "general trader opposition". One speaker noted that even the groundbreaking Bath operation was "not generating enough excitement at present".

Gareth Jones of the Farm Retail Association stressed that farmers are not necessarily great entertainers (a fact known only too well to listeners of *The Archers*): "Farmers may be great at growing and rearing but freeze in front of people. But the truth is that if small producers are to survive, they have to get out there and sell."

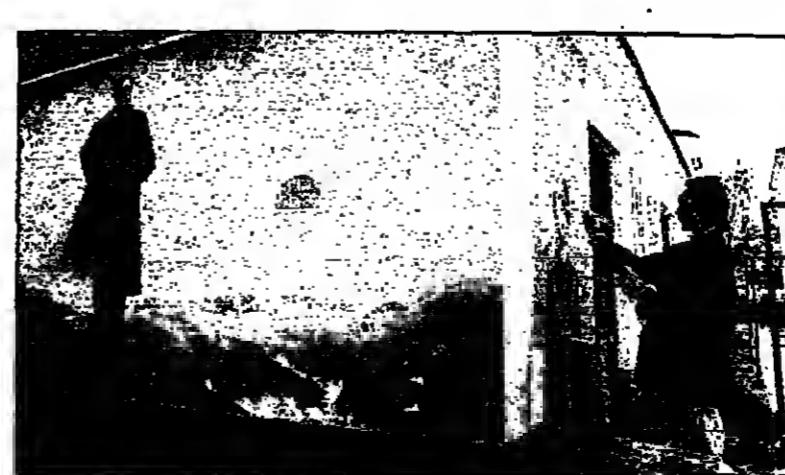
Debra Bolbot, who sells smoked meats and cheeses at Bath's farmers' market, is convinced the markets are here to stay. "I've no doubt they will catch on," she said. "There's no com-

## The village where communism works

Continued from page 1  
so technically skilled honorary citizens who have been recruited at salaries up to 10 times the villagers' maximum.

But the workhorses of Nanjie's collectivised economic miracle are the 11,000 low-paid factory workers, mostly from other Henan villages. They are glad of the jobs, but wages are meagre and, apart from free basic food and lodging, they do not qualify for welfare benefits. The girls at the noodle factory are paid just £10 a month, with no security of employment if Nanjie's sky-high growth rate falters, as it has this year amid the regional economic crisis.

Nanjie also gets an unnatural boost from the extraordinary number of visitors who come to marvel – up to 250,000 each year. They snap up Mao badges and busts, plus an array of books and videos on the Nanjie experience. Yang Yuchao, 25, from a Peking factory making machines for the coal industry, said he had come to see the Nanjie spirit. "It is very sincere, very simple. I saw the lady in charge of cleaning work... she was very conscientious."



We have to hope that the leaders are as conscientious as they claim.

The net profits of Nanjie's enterprises are paid into a collective account, which Mr Wang said now stood at 800m yuan (£46m). This compares with the annual spending of 4m yuan on citizens' welfare – less than £100 a year per person, despite the low cap on wages.

There are strict rules to prevent corruption, with the party asking everyone to handle correctly any discounts, gifts and favours. Nanjie's upstanding citizens have handed in more than 1,000 gifts in recent years, worth a total of 588,000 yuan (£45,000).

It remains a puzzle who is backing Nanjie politically. Mr Wang gave pre-

cisely worded answers to all political questions, knowing that he could land himself in hot water. He rejected the suggestion that the Deng reforms were wrong for Nanjie, and he did not preach that other villages should copy his model. So was he being used by leftists?

People holding such a view do not understand Nanjie's situation, said Mr Wang. But those with links to Peking's remaining hardliners have written articles praising Nanjie.

Collectivism was a disaster for Nanjie and for China when Mao was alive, so Nanjie's orthodoxy is characterised as *wei yuan, nei fang* (circle outside, square inside). The circle represents the flexibility of the market economy, the square is the strict Maoist disciplining of the people. It suits both sides to stress publicly that the village's economic successes could not exist without the Deng reforms.

The goodbye present from Nanjie to The Independent hedged its bets with a gilded Mao lapel badge in a box with two slogans: "Mao Thought wins over God", and "Mao is human, not God".

# You ask the questions

(Such as: Mohamed al-Fayed, do you still believe that the car crash in Paris was a conspiracy?)

**M**ohamed al-Fayed was born in Egypt in 1933 and educated at private school, then at the university of Alexandria. He has been chairman of Harrods since 1994. He also owns the Ritz in Paris, the late Duke of Windsor's house in France, a castle in Scotland and an estate in Surrey. Last week he agreed to pay damages over the breaking open of Mr Rowland's safe deposit box. Mr Fayed is married and has four children.

Are you a good Muslim? Do you follow the tradition of the Koran?  
Angela West, Skegness

I try hard to be. I try to do some good each day and use my wealth to benefit others.

Why do you swear so much?  
Chris Lovell, Shepherd's Bush

Do I?

Are you on good terms with Neil Hamilton these days?  
Diane Church, Westminster University

Neil who?

How do you feel about the outcome in court last week re Tiny Rowland's deposit box?  
Christina Leonard, Dorset

I have mixed feelings. Regret that Tiny's death robbed me of the chance to defend myself properly, but relief that I can now draw a line under 14 years of bitterness.

Do you still believe the car crash in Paris was a conspiracy? How much have you spent investigating it?  
Iain Compton, Portsmouth

I have not changed my view about the crash. There are so many unanswered questions. The French inquiry has already taken 14 months. Would it really have taken so long if the crash were a simple, straightforward accident? I have great faith in Judge Stephan. He is a man of great compassion and has been very thorough. I have to know that what happened to my beloved son Dodi and my great friend Princess Diana was God's will and not the will of others. Because of this I do not count the cost of my own inquiries.

Do you consider yourself a good friend of Peter Preston (editorial director of the Guardian Media Group)?  
Julia Nardine, Exmouth

Certainly. Peter is a man of great principle. He was courageous and steadfast throughout the case for questions row.

What paper do you read every day?  
Jasper Liley, Clapham

All of them, but I believe very little.

How do you hope people will remember you?  
Ann Thompson, Rygyl

As a man who did some good and brought some colour, entertainment and happiness into people's lives.

What's your biggest regret in life?  
William Longley, Hammersmith

My first marriage. I was too young.

Why do you think British MPs always end up in sleazy sex- and drug-type scandals? Have you ever been to Clapham Common?  
AL Forsyth

I think the general standard of people entering public life has gone down, and the press are far more prurient. But the sad case of Ron Davies shows the tragic consequences of cruel parenting. It's a truism, but if we were all kinder to our children we would have a lot more happy, well-adjusted adults. I think Battersea heliport is probably the nearest I have ever been to Clapham Common.

Who do you dislike most at the moment, and why?  
Lewis Morley

I know a few people who have taken a strong dislike to me, but I hate no one and try hard not to harbour grudges. Even the late Tiny Rowland, my arch rival in the business world for many years, was someone whose company I could enjoy socially. We

got along quite well and teased each other mercilessly. We enjoyed each other's sense of humour. I was saddened by his death and wrote to his widow.

Who is your favourite British comedian, and why do you find him/her so funny?  
Tina Starforth, Camden

Harry Enfield - he is so wonderfully versatile and subtle in puncturing the pomposity of our politicians.

With your "unauthorised" biography selling well, are you selling it in Harrods? If yes, is it reduced in price? Are you planning an official biography?  
Susan Wakefield, Stroud

The unauthorised biography is not selling well and I certainly see no reason why I should use my own store to promote a malicious work of fiction. My true life story is well advanced and should be published next spring.

As a vertically challenged person, do you feel that you are more driven to strive for world domination (eg Hitler, Napoleon) in comparison to competitors who by necessity have to look down on you?  
Anonymous

At 5ft 10in I do not regard myself as vertically challenged. I am far taller (and more handsome) than I appear on TV. In any event I have never subscribed to the view that size counts.

## YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

NEXT WEEK: BARRY MANILOW, THEN FOLLOWING, EDWARD HEATH

Please send any questions you would like to put to Barry Manilow or Sir Edward Heath to: You Ask The Questions, Features Dept, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL. Or by fax on 0171-293 2182 or e-mail to: [youaskquestions@independent.co.uk](mailto:youaskquestions@independent.co.uk) - by noon on Friday, 13 November



Don't you think that it is inappropriate for short people, especially yourself, to wear Prince of Wales check suits?  
Ian Tyssieciwicz

As they say in the House, I refer you to my previous answer. My own taste is, of course, impeccable.

When and where did you see your first football match?  
Ivor Davies, Merthyr Tydfil

In Alexandria, when I was 12. The game was Wolves vs Royal Navy.

What happened to the beautiful bronze lifts in Harrods, and why were they removed?  
Michael Hugh, Nagshead

The six magnificent lifts to which you refer were removed to make way for the Egyptian escalator in the centre of Harrods. They are all listed and are now in storage. They are in good condition and we have plans to use them again in a future expansion.

Who do you think is against your citizenship application? How many MPs do you think work for the security services?  
Anon

The Home Secretary, and he alone, will make the decision on my citizenship application. I have every confidence that it will be considered fairly and without prejudice. It is so secret that my exposure of political corruption in the last Conservative government made me some pretty

powerful enemies - some right-wing newspaper editors have sworn to bound me out of the country - but Britain is my home. My four children are all British, and I love this country. I am law-abiding and pay my taxes. I provide thousands of jobs and make a big contribution to the economy - I am not about to leave the country, whatever is decided.

As to how many MPs work for the security service, your guess is as good as mine. Tom King MP, the chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee, admitted only this week that information can be withheld even from him.

If you didn't use the Sultan of Brunei's money to buy Harrods, where did the money come from?  
Donald Chittie, Buckingham

Between 1968 and 1978 I won orders for £50m worth of civil engineering and construction work for British firms, including Costain, of which I owned 30 per cent. Harrods was bought with my own money. Not only did I inject additional capital into House of Fraser to service any borrowings after the acquisition. I also made further bonds available to refurbish stores in the group and acquire additional stores such as Turnbull & Asser, and acquired a significant interest in Sears PLC. I have also spent more than £300m restoring Harrods.

On his own admission the late Tiny Rowland spent £40m trying to prove to the DTT Inspectors that the purchase money was not mine, but he never succeeded. My only crime was to have more money than Tiny thought I had.

Have you ever taken anything home from Harrods without paying for it?  
Neil Price, Norfolk

No. And I pay my Gold Card Account on time, too.

We're so miserable in Britain. Why on earth do you want to live here?  
Josephine Ellis, West Hampstead

I love the British sense of humour.

Do you believe in life after death - do you think you'll ever see Dodi again?  
Ellis, West Hampstead

I firmly believe in life after death and have no doubt that one day I shall be reunited with my beloved son.

Can you list what is in your bathroom cabinet?  
Stewart Cauchpole, Colchester

Homeopathic remedies, toothpaste, shaving soap, razors. I forgot the rest.

Are you a good cook? What's your favourite dish?  
Deborah Quinley, Esher

I love cooking for my family. I am a great fan of stuffed vegetables but my real favourite is a dish I call Ritz Beef - sautéed filets mignon with mushrooms and shalots, served with a Madeira sauce.

Where would you most like to be right now?  
Jan Faversham, Cornwall

I am very privileged to work in the place I love best - Harrods. But my most treasured home is Balnagown Castle in Scotland, the first property I ever bought in Britain.

What was the last book you read?  
Richard Johns, Eitham

A biography of the radical Tom Paine, by John Keane.

Which newspaper do you dislike most at the moment, and why?  
Olga Pinn, Horsham

The Sun. It recently called me a reptile in huge red letters on the front page. I am all in favour of robust press comment, but felt that was just a little over the top.

Do you read Private Eye? What do you most like about England?  
Igor Williams, Guynefield

I do not read Private Eye but am told I feature regularly. It's nice to be popular and give people pleasure. For satire with real bite and spice I read Punch. England's best qualities are its tolerance and good humour.



## IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

17: DYSONS BY HETTIE JUDAH



just assumed it was because we were a bit, well, dirty, you know, and it couldn't cope."

It turned out that we were not alone; the Dyson DC02 may maintain 100 per cent of its original suction, but the suction itself is just not as good as a normal vacuum cleaner. In addition, it is very noisy, doesn't quite get into corners, and has problems with animal hairs.

It may have no bag, but to empty the bowl you have to tip it into a bin, which sends a cloud of grime back out into the atmosphere. And that cute little see-through dust bin? Gets

covered in disfiguring dust, as do most of the internal components.

Dyson recommend washing it out with soap and water, which is just a little more hands than I want to get with my discarded skin particles, thank you very much. And for the £14-odd you save a year on hoover bags, you get to spend £37 on changing the filters.

For a work of art, it is a price worth paying, yet the more I look at the over-designed DC02, the uglier it gets - the stewed liver grey, four grape and mental-health-ward yellow colour scheme that can only have

been inspired by a Pony Club tie; the hideous Fisher Price-style chunky styling; the static plastic that the dust so loves to stick to.

The DC02 arrived at a time when the world was out to slam Hoover. Not only were we desperate for a new appliance king; we were desperate for British heroes. With the DC02, Dyson was selling new technology that he flattered us we could understand. He had just the right mix of nutty inventiveness and derring-do for us to take him and his invention to our hearts. no questions asked. Perhaps that is where we messed up.

SINCE THE day the DC02 was launched, members of the style press seem to have been stuck so far up Dyson's fundament that no amount of dual cyclone suction could get them out again; as far as I can tell they languish there still. I am usually immune to the vagaries of fashion, but about a year ago I began to succumb to Dysonmania. I could identify with the user group: I lived away from my parents, occasionally drank bottled beer and would never have dreamt of laminating my mooth travel card; dammit, I was young and hep. I bought myself a Dyson

because, quite frankly, I was worth it, and God forbid, I wouldn't want anyone to think I was unhygienic or anything. So I began to use Dyson on quite a regular basis. To start with, it was quite fun. It arrived in December and I derived hours of entertainment from vacuuming along the branches of the Christmas tree and watching all the needles and bits of glass mound up inside the clear plastic dust bin. At one of those amusing little cheese and wine parties so beloved of appliance junkies, I mentioned my new Dyson to a fellow cabaret-swilling guest. He had one too. "I say, yours works?" he whispered. "Not very well; it's kind of noisy and it doesn't suck much," I replied. "Gosh, that's a relief," we



Late 1930s black dress with silver-stencilled roses, £750, hat with net trim from a selection. Photographer: Anna Stevenson, stylist: Holly Wood, make-up: Helen Walsh at GMS using Bobbi Brown Hair; Sacha Mascolo for Toni & Guy, using TIGI Haircare products; model: Marie-Claire at Select. All clothes from Virginia, 98 Portland Road Holland Park W11, enquiries, 0171-727 9908



1920s gold devore cape, £400, 1930s midnight blue velvet dress, £650, both from Virginia in Holland Park, London (see details below)



Thirties red satin bias cut dress, £750, and long, Edwardian beaded tasseled scarf, worn as headband, £200



1920s black silk heron motif hand-headed dress, price on application

## Hold that frock for Galliano

A basement shop in Holland Park is a place of pilgrimage for fashion designers, cinema divas and models. By Tamsin Blanchard

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**A**t this time of year, fashion designers leave their ivory towers of studios to take great gulps of fresh air and go in search of new ideas and inspiration. Just weeks after the spring/summer '99 collections of New York, London, Paris and Milan are over, they are already history in the minds of those who created them. By the end of this month, the next egg, the one stamped autumn/winter '99/2000, must be batched.

One research destination that has become a priority for many designers - Donna Karan, John Galliano, Stella McCartney, Ralph Lauren and Antonio Berardi to name a few - is a tiny shop tucked away in one of the most undiscovered and fashionable corners of Holland Park. You do not need to make an appointment. Nor will you be requested to handle the clothes with gloves. And best of all - unlike at the V&A or the Costume Museum in Bath - everything has a price tag.

In the three years that Virginia has been specialising in pre-Forties clothing (previously Virginia Bates sold Victorian baths and antique plumbing equipment), the shop has become a place of pilgrimage for those in the know in the fashion world. It is the sort of shop that a designer will board Concorde to spend a few hours in. For the past couple of weeks, Virginia's has been a hive of activity, shiny limos parked outside while some of the world's most influential designers do some shopping in the name of research and development. What you see hanging on the rails in Virginia's this week might find its way on to the catwalk next spring and into the high street by next autumn.

The average gestation period for a collection can last from around three to four months. But finding the starting point for a collection always proves the most difficult part. And the research that goes into the making of a collection is thorough and all-encompassing. No stone will be left unturned, be it an exhibition, film, play or library. At this time of year and again in April, many fashion designers become the academics of their field. Long days will be spent in libraries, galleries and the vaults of

costume museums, working through the fragile pieces of fashion history.

Fashion designers like to find inspiration from old clothes. They will trawl the flea markets of New York, the markets of Greenwich and Camden and every vintage clothing store they can find to seek out a detail for a sleeve here, a patch of beading or embroidery there. Sometimes they will be inspired by the cut of a dress, or the style of a collar. Other times they will out and out copy. At Virginia's, they don't have to look very hard. It is not a case of rummaging through bargain boxes and hunting through the rails. The pieces of clothing at Virginia's hit you right between the eyes.

"It's got to be a wow piece or I won't buy it," says Virginia, a blonde-haired Bohemian who looks as though she might have been a Sixties rock star in a previous life. She has eyes and ears up and down the country on the look-out for new finds. "The days are gone when a little old lady would come in with a bin bag of treasure," says Virginia ruefully.

Often, clothes are shrouded in mystery when she acquires them. "A lot of pieces were cut out for 'Lady So-and-So. I never get to know exactly who they belonged to because people can be secretive. But most of the clothes have had one owner." This is the reason her stock is in such good condition. "In those days women didn't wear Manolo Blahnik shoes that went straight through the hem of a chiffon dress. Women were dressed by a maid."

She knows her stuff, not in a boring museum curator way but in the way of a woman who is passionate about clothes, and who has an eye for

the most wondrous dresses, coats, capes and accessories - the ones that make real life melt away into fantasy. She does not bore you with dates and historical lectures. She simply urges you to try on a piece that she knows will make you look superb.

"This is a shop of shining pieces. People's dreams," she says. "It's the mystery and the fantasy of it - a total passion. And that's why I'll never make any money." Despite the fact that the only drawback to Virginia's world of sequined fantasy is that the prices are as serious as the clothes, she is right. This is not the way to make money. A delicate, ruby-red, glittery tulle slip dress from the early Twenties might seem a bit steep at £240, but there will never be another like it. Certainly not in that pristine condition. These clothes are priceless; indeed, when Virginia finds something she loves, she won't part with it for any price. Her private collection,

much of which she wears, is packed with gems that designers - and museum curators - would like to get their hands on.

Stepping into Virginia's is like stepping into another world where credit cards and cheques are but sordid details. The windows seduce you with their jumble of Victorian dresses, bugle-headed scarves, multi-coloured sequined evening capes. The afternoon I visited, a customer was busy downstairs in the heart of the shop, seemingly trying on every piece that fitted her. She had flown over for the day from Germany, for the sole purpose of a spree at the shop. She spent over an hour with Jo, Virginia's assistant, who was at her beck and call. Eventually, she emerged from the basement boudoir with an armful of one-off clothes which were packed up for her flight home in return for a sum I roughly calculated to be in excess of £4,000. She rang a few days later to buy a coat she'd regretted leaving behind.

"I want people to be happy," says Virginia. "I want my customers to feel special." So when Naomi Campbell's limousine pulls up outside the shop at five o'clock, it is all part of Virginia's service to stay open for a little late-night shopping. When Demi Moore paid a visit, she stayed until midnight, and left with around 30 pieces. But although Demi has designers clamouring to dress her, she knows that when she wears Virginia's clothes (and they are all packed with Virginia's own discreet little label) she will never run into anyone else wearing the same dress. Or indeed, a dress with such attention to detail and such incredible craftsmanship. As they say, they don't

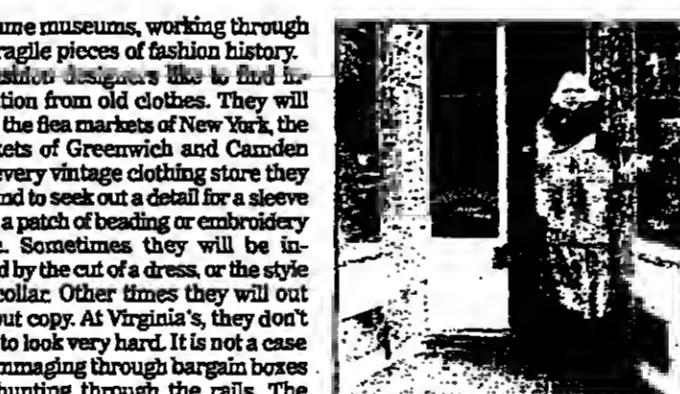
make them like that any more.

This month's American Vogue cover girl, Amber Valletta, is another Virginia's fan. She apparently goes for the "really pretty things" and is known for her unique dress sense. At the party thrown in September for British imports at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, Amber wore an amazing antique Chinese coat. Such is her influence in the fashion world, Virginia was flown over for the event too and was given her own section of the department store for two weeks; she transported her stock and the atmosphere of the shop to New York, carrying a Victorian corset, a handful of ostrich feathers, some silk flowers and four 19th-century curtains in her hand luggage.

Usually, however, the fashion world comes to Virginia. On Monday, it was Gucci. Last week, John Galliano paid a visit. He has been "shopping" at Virginia's for the past two years and invites her to his shows. When he invited her to Paris last season he chauffeured her and her suitcase of treasure from the station to his studio for lunch. "He's been such an inspiration for me," she says. "In a way, he made me decide to concentrate on clothes. He made me realise I have a flair for it." Whenever new stock comes in, she will put pieces aside that she thinks Galliano might want. The same goes for Ralph Lauren or Gucci. "They buy my creation," she says.

"The fashion world has changed as a result of this little basement in Holland Park. When I see something of mine on the catwalk, I think, yes, I was right. The haggling, the wheeling and dealing and the hunch are all paid off."

It seems crazy that nobody has thought to put Virginia on their payroll, as a researcher or consultant. But perhaps it is better that way. Even if you can't afford to buy anything there, Virginia's is one of the few places you can go and see magnificent pieces of fashion history and craft in the flesh. For her it is an addiction - she says she is looking for something that will give her a hit. But for anyone else who simply wants to go and fantasise, spot a designer on the prowl - or be tempted by a dress for the party season - there is no better place.



Virginia Bates      Emma Boam

### YOUNG CATWALK PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

*The Independent*, in conjunction with Clothes Show Live '98, The British Heart Foundation and Olympus, is out to find the young catwalk photographer of the year for the second year running. A panel of judges will choose five finalists to attend Clothes Show Live '98 on 4 December; when they will photograph a catwalk show. The winning picture will be chosen from those taken on the day.

Send three photographs which capture the "Heart of Fashion" (they can be in any format, and in either black-and-white or colour), to Young Catwalk Photographer of the Year; *The Independent* (Fashion), 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, to arrive no later than 25 November 1998. Caption each picture, and include your name and address. We regret that we are unable to return any pictures submitted. The judges' decision is final. The Prizes: The winner will receive an OM 2000 camera plus kit, including a lens and flash, and work experience with *The Independent's* catwalk photographer during London Fashion Week in February 1999. The winning shot will be published in *The Independent*, and also in Clothes Show Live '99 publicity material. Two runners-up will receive an IS10 camera plus kit. Cameras supplied by Olympus.

The oral

COMEDY

BAFTA VENUE

Percy's

# Highlights from a low life

The writer Charles Bukowski died in 1994, yet his legend lives on. Indeed, it's been industrialised. By Declan O'Neill

**O**ne badge reads "Nobody's ugly after 2am"; another says, "I'm lying, but believe me it's true". Both are quotes from Charles Bukowski, the American poet and author who died in 1994. On the one hand the badges, produced for an exhibition in London, are frivolous pieces of merchandise; on the other, they are signifiers of the immense appeal to popular culture of the man referred to by critics as "the folk-house laureate".

He also said – though it wouldn't fit on a badge – "Even though I write about the human race, the further away I am from them, the better I feel. Two inches is great. Two miles is great. Two thousand miles is beautiful."

Misanthropy is part of the Bukowski allure; certainly it was no deterrent to the 3,000 or so devotees who made the pilgrimage to a 1996 exhibition of his first editions, Farah slacks, handkerchiefs, betting slips, T-shirts, pens, ashtrays, bottle openers, reading glasses and even his sleeping-mask.

The spin-offs since his death include a rash of memoirs (one, by an old girlfriend, was called *Blowing My Hero*), movies, CDs, videos, documentaries, fanzines and websites. Universities buy up his letters and collectors fight over the few surviving editions of his early books. As many poems as were printed in his lifetime (some of them of questionable quality) await eventual publication, and though the whole story has yet to be told, Howard Sounes's excellent new biography, *Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life*, is an excellent place to start.

Dirty realism came easily to Bukowski and he came to dominate the genre with his chronicles of drinking, whoring and gambling.

"If something terrible happens," he wrote in *Women*, "you drink to forget it; if something good happens you drink to celebrate... and if nothing happens, you drink to make something happen."

Once described as "a big hunchback, with a ravaged, pockmarked face, de-

cayed, nicotine-stained teeth and pain-filled eyes," he made an unlikely celebrity. From drifter beginnings, working at odd jobs in spurs then writing with a pencil stub in freezing lodgings, came more than 45 books of poetry and prose, translated into more than a dozen languages. After his death there was even the obligatory tussle over the million-dollar estate.

Bukowski's widow, Linda, considered opening their San Pedro home as a museum. A couple of years after his death Kevin Ring, editor of the English magazine *Beat Scene*, published AD Winans' memoir *The Charles Bukowski: Second Coming Years*, including a poem by Bukowski that gave what Ring says were "explicit directions on how to get to [his] house. We sent her the book and thought, 'Oh, she'll like this,' and she said, 'I've got the book – great, but I'm going to kill you.'

So what's the fuss about? Sounes describes the Bukowski philosophy as "a rejection of drudgery and imposed rules, of mendacity and pretentiousness; an acceptance that human lives are often wretched and that people are frequently cruel to one another; but that life can also be beautiful, sexy and funny."

Bukowski realised early on that the trick lay in being himself. From Ernest Hemingway and John Fante he took a stripped-down style, heavy on dialogue – "the spoken word nailed to paper", as the critic John Corrington put it.

Bukowski was born in 1920 and was nearly 50, pockmarked and pot-bellied, when his career took off, the low-life counterpart to a cultural revolution predicated upon youth and beauty. His break came when John Martin, the manager of an office supply company, sold off his library of first editions to set up Black Sparrow Press. In 1971, Bukowski quit his Post Office job (a postman for two years and sorter for nine) to write full-time for Black Sparrow which, largely through his earning power, built up an annual turnover of more than \$1m.

There was plenty of time to entertain the procession of women desperate for an encounter with the man behind "Notes of a Dirty Old Man", the column he wrote for the Los Angeles alternative paper *Open City*, and at night he would stroll up to his local coffee stand, where he would often meet a comic book distributor, George DiCaprio (father of Leo). In Sounes' biography, DiCaprio recalls Christmas Eve, 1975. He was washing up after dinner with his mother when a drunken Bukowski burst in. "You know it's just a few inches that separates a man from paradise," he said, his voice rising to a yell, "that prevents a man from sucking his own cock."

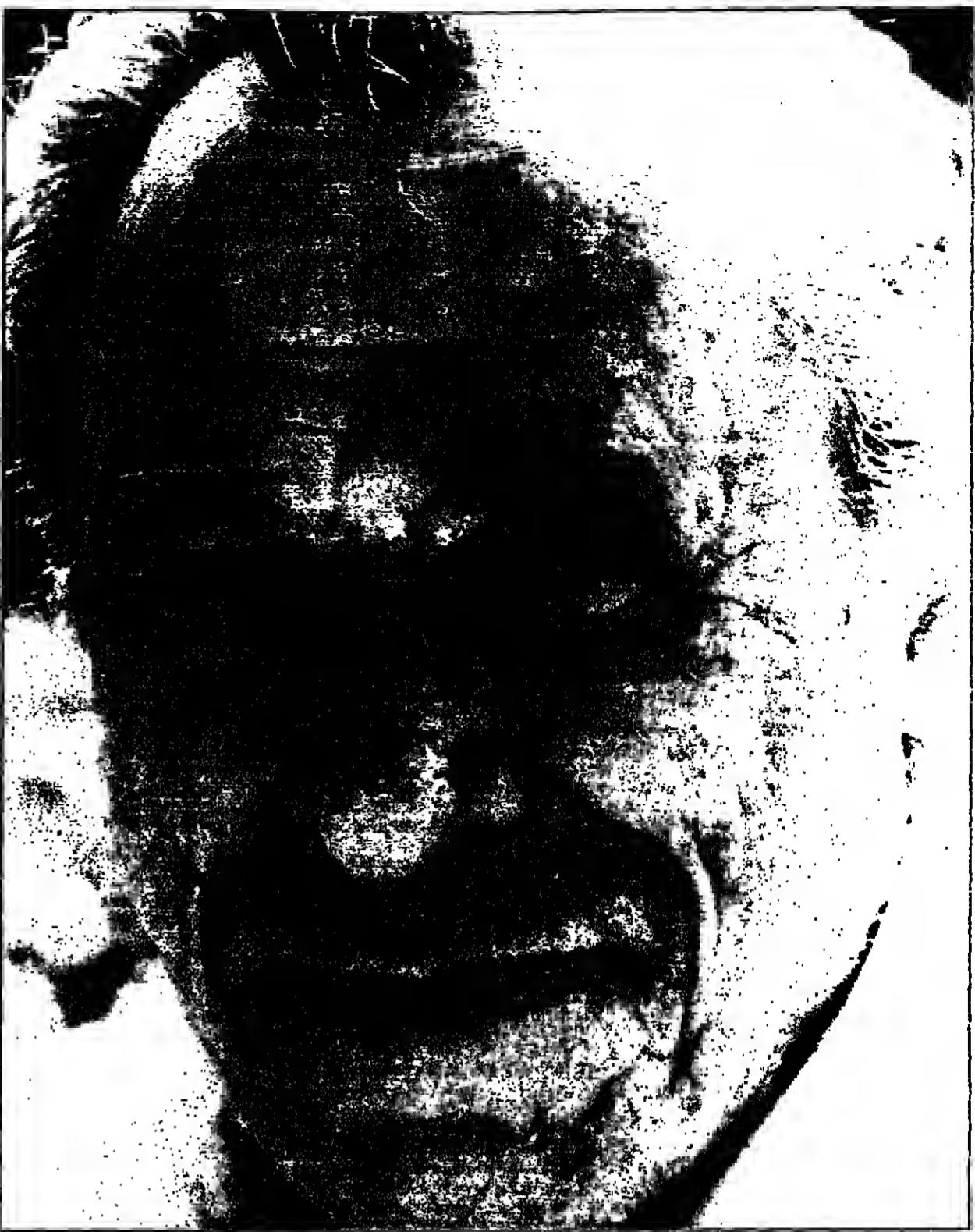
Though he was never without a voice in his own country, Bukowski has always spoken most loudly to European sensibilities – the 1971 novel *Post Office* sold 75,000 at home and 500,000 copies abroad. In Germany, the country his parents left when he was two, he built up a huge following through his readings, the Germans seeing him, he said, as a mixture of "Bogart, Hemingway and Jack the Ripper." They loved him in France, too, after his drunken appearance on a TV talk show. After asking to see more of a female guest's legs – to see how good a writer she was, he said – and calling the host a "fucking son of a fucking bitch asshole," he bid her au revoir.

"He didn't remember anything, of course," recalls Rabeet Schroeder, director of the film *Barfly*, "but the whole of France was running to buy his books."

There were two earlier European films, *Crazy Love* (which Bukowski considered the best account of his work), and *Thales of Ordinary Madness*, starring Ben Gazzara, whose portrayal of him Bukowski hated, saying he had "eyes of a constipated man sitting on the pot straining to crap".

Grudging recognition finally came from the literary mainstream on the back of *Barfly*, the Mickey Rourke and Faye Dunaway vehicle for which Bukowski wrote the screenplay, and in which he appeared as a drunk. He didn't need much of a screen test.

"Fame is the last whore," he wrote in the poem "Supposedly Famous", and the



Bukowski – writer, drinker, philosopher: "It's just a few inches that separate a man from paradise"

Re

financial security accrued from *Barfly*'s modest success – he drove to his beloved racecourse in a BMW, ate with Sean Penn and Madonna, and abandoned his typewriter for an Apple Mac – removed him from the margins and too often blunted his edge.

Still, in his dotage Bukowski produced at least one collection, *Last Night of the Earth Poems*, that ranks among his finest work. The flow of letters never ceased, and

he carried on contributing to small magazines such as *Beat Scene*. He remained faithful to Black Sparrow, refusing huge advances from one of the larger publishing houses in favour of what he called "uncensored acceptability".

He said in 1974: "It may sound egotistical, but I think I'll be a late discovery. I think people will see the clarity and simplicity in my work, and appreciate it for those qualities."

On 9 March 1994, he died of leukaemia. At Mastro & Frank, his favourite Hollywood restaurant, the barman cancelled the order for riesling and Liebfraumilch. There would be no more hangovers, but the Bukowski industry has a few vintage years to come.

"Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life" by Howard Sounes is published tomorrow by Rebel Inc, price £16.99

## The oral surgeon in chief

### COMEDY

JACKIE MASON  
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE  
LONDON

JACKIE MASON used to be a rabbi, but he had to give it up because he couldn't take it seriously. He still can't take anything seriously, but he's in a rather more suitable job now – he's a comedian. And a remarkable one at that.

As he slouches on stage in an ordinary black double-breasted suit, the stout, 64-year-old Mason, by his own admission, looks like nothing so much as an accountant. But once the monologue begins, his whole body springs into life – never has one man's shrug been so expressive. There is just no stopping him; some ideas simply drown in a gushing tide of words.

At the Playhouse on Monday night, he made a joke of the fact that he had unsuccessfully attempted to exit the stage four times. Imagine a wise-guy New York cabbie setting the world to rights – on fast-forward – and you get the picture.



Mason: best on Jews and Gentiles Gervais Lewis

Mason occasionally gives off the air of being the man that PC forgot. Some of his routines – particularly about blacks and gays – would have the right-on brigade peering hand-wringing letters to the *New Statesman*. It is not hard to see why he has been dubbed "the Bernard Manning of Brooklyn". But even his most offensive material is delivered with such a twinkle that you can't be sure it's not just another joke – on people's PC sensibilities.

All the same, he is on much safer – and funnier – ground with his overriding obsession – the difference between Jews and Gentiles. He is constantly toying with racial stereotypes, but in a way that is playful rather than pernicious. He can't, for instance, imagine John Glenn being Jewish. "If an old Jew came back to his house in Miami Beach and said, 'Hello, I'm going into space, can you picture the reaction of his wife? The whole

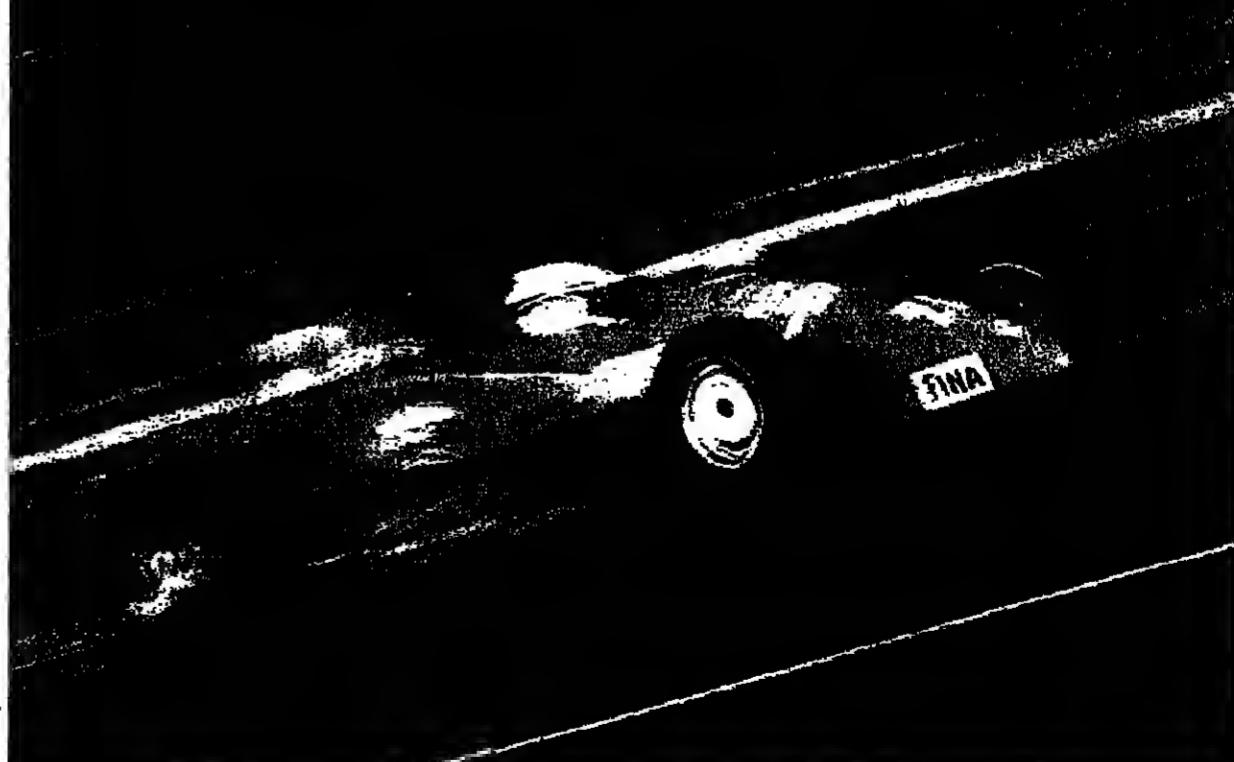
family would get together and say, 'what happened here? Then she'd get suspicious – 'why can't you take me?'"

He extends his reflections about Jewish characteristics to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's attitude to the West Bank: "He'd like to give it back, but right now he can't. It's in his wife's name." Mason even manages to weave his preoccupation into the Lewinsky case. "I don't believe a word of it. A Jewish girl is not interested in oral sex – an oral surgeon, maybe. To a Jewish girl, oral sex is talking about a condominium. The climax is when her mother moves in." He derides President Clinton's assertion that oral sex is not sex: "people are going up to hookers to get their money back."

Any stand-up who can still mine gems from the Clinton and Lewinsky saga – perhaps the most overworked seen in the history of comedy – is no comedy klutz.

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AT CIRCUITS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## Percy's great adventure

### CLASSICAL

THE GRAINGER EVENT  
ST JOHN'S  
SMITH SQUARE, LONDON

A CLASSICAL music event concluding with massed audience whistling of "Colonel Bogey"? It could mean only one thing: the iconoclastic spirit of Percy Aldridge Grainger, Australia's first musical genius, was abroad.

Not least among the instigators of Grainger's recent welcome revival has been the pianist Penelope Thwaites, and this weekend of concerts, workshops, talks, demonstrations and general exuberance was largely her idea. Three daytime sessions included a visual tour of the Grainger Museum in Melbourne (the composer's extraordinary tribute to himself), demonstrations of his weird microtonal "butterfly piano", and even "butterfly whistling and shrieking" free music machines".

"The Merry Wedding" by the Chapman Studio Soloists and the pianist Antony Gray plus a commendably clear and disciplined performance of a Bach transcription by the Stom Keyboard Ensemble.

The real musical meat of the occasion came in the two evening concerts, plus a splendid opening recital from the Kneeler Hall Band, who gave full range to Grainger's special skill in wind and brass writing.

On Saturday Della Jones, Stephen Varcoe, James Gilchrist and Penelope Thwaites gave an enthralling programme of Grainger's songs, ranging from some of his most glorious folk song arrangements, through his remarkable settings of Kipling, written at the age of 16 or so, to the ex-cruciatingly poignant tribute to

the memory of his mother, *The Power of Love*. The effect of the closing "Now, O now I needs must part" (from Dowland) was moving indeed.

By Sunday evening exuberance was the order of the day when Penelope Thwaites was joined by John Lavender, Wayne Marshall and other players at three Steinway grands in a programme that included the immortal bugbear, "Country Gardens" and a première of *The Widow's Party March*, concluding with an 18-hand arrangement from Gershwin's *Portrait of Bess* and the aforementioned theme from *Bridge over the River Kwai*. The audience cheered their approval – no doubt looking forward to another Grainger weekend next year.

LAURENCE HUGHES

Alan Bennett's play *Kafka's Dick* is a 'philosophical farce'. But isn't that a contradiction in terms? By Paul Taylor

# Whoops, professor, there go my trousers

**T**he wittiest definition of a philosophical farce was provided by James Fenton back in the days when he was theatre critic of the *Sunday Times*. Reviewing Michael Frayn's *Balmoral*, he contended that, in this kind of drama, "the trousers of an idea are discovered around its ankles, a Notion is interrupted in bed with a Postulate, or a Proposition sets its foot on a banana skin. To adapt the standard definition: ordinary men are discovered in extraordinary situations because of extraordinary reasoning."

Notions with their knickers in a twist, the *sine qua non* for this form of farce, are in abundant supply in *Kafka's Dick*, the Alan Bennett comedy which opens next week in its first London revival directed by Peter Hall. It's an astutely equivocal play about the English vice of prurient literary biography ("In England, facts like that pass for culture. Gossip is the acceptable face of intellect") and about a writer's ambivalent relationship to same. Kafka is an ideal focus for this discussion, because he shrank from the intrusion of having his fiction – let alone his life – pored over by posterity. The play begins, however, with a scene that casts doubt on the sincerity with which the dying Czech author ordered his friend, Max Brod, to burn his writings.

Bennett creates an ingenious

farce scenario for testing Kafka's qualms by having him and Brod materialise decades later in the suburban Leeds home of Sydney, an insurance man and confirmed Kafka huff who is writing an article about his hero for the trade journal *Small Print*. If Brod had kept his word, of course, Sydney's shelves would not be groaning with the products of the



*The trouble with Terry Johnson's 'Hysteria' is that the material is just too anguishing*

tireless Kafka industry (*Kafka's Loneliness, the Agony of Kafka etc.*). Cue a scene in which Brod and Sydney desperately try to sneak away all these offending volumes behind the back of our genius, who is still supremely ignorant of his posthumous celebrity.

There's a wry twist in this, though. Farce is a form normally populated by frighteningly single-

## ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

IT TAKES a certain intrepidity to call a show *Sell Out*. As a description of the youthful Frantic Assembly's latest offering, the title is a trifle misleading: Michael Wynne's play exposes the slip-knot bond of four twentysomething friends who, it emerges, are too faithless to have ever really bought into anything. As a forecast of the works reception to tour, though, it has proved uncannily accurate. To have had to add an extra date to their recent British Festival of Visual Theatre run looks like good fortune. To have packed out the Bull Theatre in Barnet with

teens on a wet Friday night – as they did last week – looks nothing short of miraculous. If they can command this kind of attention at the end of the Northern Line, who knows what business they could drum-up in the centre of London.

It's not hard to fathom the appeal. Frantic – who have been operating since 1992 – continue to make an acting area as sexy as a dancefloor. Force 10 tech sounds come crashing in at every available opportunity. In the programme, a scrap of notepaper with a scrawled playlist of scenes ("love stairs", "secrets",

"sizequeen" etc) spells death to stuffy three-actors. The cast of four – in roles that steal their own Christian names – display an agility normally reserved for steroid-enhanced Russian gymnasts. In skimpy tops and the usual club rig-out, Cate Davies, Scott Graham, Steven Hoggatt and Ansty Thomas leap into each other's arms, dash each other to the ground and find countless ways of dragging themselves off two moveable steel structures: a set of easily tipped up steps and what looks like a cross-section WC. When they open their mouths to speak they sound so

unfazed they might have been just boiling the kettle. But it's what they say that counts. The super-fit expressionism (choreographed by T C Howard) runs parallel to the bruising attitudes that surface after the opening scene, in which a euphoric Stephen celebrates his birthday with girlfriend Kate and two best mates. In the cold, clear light of reflection, it dawns on him that everyone knew what was coming: Scott was a furtive rival while Ansty's gift, a self-help book, quietly declared her unthinking support for Kate's

cynical refusal to commit. Wynne sketches the emotional trench warfare that ensues with devastating economy. The wounding remarks can be transparently juvenile ("I really think the scabs brought us together, at least we had something in common when we had them"), but that's what gives *Sell Out* its integrity. Imagine a hormonally raging prequel to *Closer*, or Pinter's *Betrayal* with added beats per minute.

The physical skills deployed in the Scarlet Theatre company's *Stranded* are more subtly expressive than Frantic's bicep-

breaking contortions. But then, they have to be. Katarzyna Deszcz has chosen a simple, if vivid, storyline, based on the Italian judge and playwright Ugo Bettini's *Crime on Goat Island*, about a thick-skinned stranger who invites himself into a remote house occupied by three women claiming to have befriended Agatha, the head of the household's husband before he died in a prison-of-war camp. It's the awkward silences, the mutual sizing up, rather than the terse dialogue that grips, though, as allegiances shift bringing ill-tempered rifts. As the

matriarch's sister-in-law and daughter, Jane Guernier and Sarah-Theresa Belcher provide strong support, rich in scatty detail, but it is Linda Kerr-Scott's abandoned widow Agatha who supplies the piece's tragicomic cores: her rapid neck movements suggest a startled faraway goose, her pursed lips and severe eyes an eternity of strife between the sexes.

*'Stranded'*, Young Vic, London SE1, to 21 Nov. *'Sell Out'*, 13 Nov. UEA, Norwich, 17 Nov. Theatre Studio, Scarborough and touring until March 1999

# The still, small voice of calm

## REVIEW

THE SEAGULL  
WEST YORKSHIRE  
PLAYHOUSE  
LEEDS



Whether it reaches the right people or not remains to be seen, but this *The Seagull*, as it is elegiac, is clearly a worthwhile revival. McKellen has wisely and fittingly opted to play the part of Dr Dorn. Wisely, because the charismatic medic is the still centre around which the play's inflated and easily punctured bohemian egos whirl. He earns, rather than grabs, the limelight. Fitfully, because it is Dorn who encourages the novice playwright, Konstantin, after the latter's abortive attempt to impress his fading actress

mother, Arkadina, with his high-flown poetic drama, you sense there is a life-and-talent-affirming enthusiasm in his avuncular advice. In his introduction to his succinct translation, Tom Stoppard suggests that Konstantin's dramatic efforts are too inert ever to succeed, but if anything, Jude's production reminds you that the intense young man is too surrounded by self-obsessives for anything truly lifelike to communicate itself in his art.

You are aware of tiny toings and froings across the bare wooden stage that divides the audience in the Courtyard theatre – adorned at either end with a few stick-like trees and blank charcoal-coloured facades – but the psychological stasis keeps breaking through.

Booking: 0113-213 7700

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

## DEBUT

# A magnificent day on the flying trapeze

The actor: Anna Carteret  
The place: The Scala Theatre, London  
The year: 1960  
The role: Wendy in *Peter Pan*



THE FIRST major part I had, after a number of pantos – which I appeared in from the age of 12 – was as Wendy in *Peter Pan*, directed by Tony Robertson. It starred Donald Sinden as Captain Hook and Mr Darling, Pamela Lane as Mrs Darling, and Julia Lockwood as Peter. Our company manager was John Inman, who went on to be more famous than any of us.

I took over from Juliette Mills after she hurt her back on the flying harness. I was under-studying and playing Tiger Lily. I came in for a Wednesday matinee at the half and they said, "You're on". I'd never flown before. They said: "Don't worry – when you go off into the bathroom to get into your nightie, you get hooked up. Just climb on to the manacle, but don't jump or you'll bounce."

Anyway, I managed to fly upstage centre and I was so pleased with myself that when I landed on this mattress behind what was supposed to be an upstairs window, I got up and walked off. You could see my head poking out. Later I had to fly and visit Peter up in his tree-house. My hat was covered with little bobbles that were supposed to be berries. One of these got caught on the wires, so I had to play the entire scene with my head to one side. I was laughing so much.

I said, "Come along Nana, home", and the flying-crew who usually went into the pub

next door got an emergency call to come back and fly me off. It was fairly terrifying but a wonderful opportunity – it was like being in the West End straight away. I was only 17. The dancing training I'd received undoubtedly helped me take to the air – you have to arch your back otherwise you look like a sack of potatoes. We played London over Christmas and then toured for 12 weeks.

After that, I wrote to all the repertory theatres. The only one that replied was Forbes Robertson at Butlin's in Skegness. So I went there for six months. I learnt a lot – but it was strange. The plays were cut to fit the campers' schedules and the director ended up in a lunatic asylum.

INTERVIEW BY

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

Anna Carteret is in the RSC's *'Richard III'* at Stratford-upon-Avon, till Sat (01789 295623), transferring to the Savoy Theatre, London WC2 (0171-836 8888) on 18 Jan

## SERENA MACKESY

*There were moments in 'The Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star' which wrung bellows of laughter from these cynical old lungs*

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 20



Julia McKenzie, Denis Lill and Eric Sykes in Peter Hall's revival of 'Kafka's Dick'; left, Terry Johnson's 'Hysteria'; Robbie Jack

But if that is so, it is hard to account for *Kafka's Dick* and *Hysteria*. Another reason for its comparative failure might be that the pieces – in which a capitalist Russian journalist visits the State Writers' Colony at Balmoral and, through a series of farcical misunderstandings, is converted to ardent communism – never brings into sufficiently animated play the philosophical underpinnings of these opposed ways of life. There's a distinct shortage of conceptual twists.

Of course, the foal twist in *Kafka's Dick* is that the play is ironically complicit with the gossipy culture it condemns. After all, if Kafka affects to be appalled at publications like *The Loneliness of Kafka* and *Kafka's Agony*, he would surely also have a real job trying to keep his cool at a performance of *Kafka's Dick*.

Piccadilly Theatre, London (booking: 0171-369 1734)

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ATOP PERFE

IN SEPTEMBER, Sir Ian McKellen announced that he was abandoning the London stage – possibly for ever – to work at the West Yorkshire Playhouse for six months, disillusioned by the treadmill performance being cast before complacent middle-class and tourist-laden audiences. One can only assume that he was on cloud nine on Monday night, as the first of the productions staged by the repertory company under his aegis, and that of artistic director Jude Kelly, was unveiled. Surrounded by other critics and assorted glitterati (well, Prunella Scales), it wasn't the easiest night to which to spot the hallowed "real people", though there seemed a fair number tucking into ice-creams at half time.

**REVIEW**  
THE SEAGULL  
WEST YORKSHIRE  
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LEEDS

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Clare Higgins and Clare Swinburne

McKellen does wonders to this potentially noo-descript part, his Dorn a jovial yet reliable young man, who, when he confronts Will Keen's wonderfully self-conscious Konstantin after the latter's abortive attempt to impress his fading actress

Booking: 0113-213 7700

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

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THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 20

Claim a lump sum and get an annuity, too. By Abigail Montrose



There is no need to ease up on your lifestyle when you retire if you play the pension game to your advantage

## Let the tax man pay your pension

Personal pensions are one of the most tax-efficient savings schemes around. They are aimed at anyone who is not in a company pension scheme, and offer generous tax breaks.

You make your contributions from your net (taxed) income and the pension provider then reclaims the tax you have already paid on this money and invests it in your pension.

The effect of this for basic-rate taxpayers is that, for every £77 you pay in, £100 is invested in the fund.

Those paying 40 per cent income tax fare even better. They have to pay only £80 into their pension scheme for a £100 investment to be made.

Because of this generous tax treatment, there are limits on the amount you can invest.

If you have not made the maximum tax-free contributions to which you are entitled, it may not be too late to make these up, explains Craig Foreman, of the independent financial advisers MPL.

He says: "The carry-back

rules allow people to use up any relief from the previous year that they haven't already used.

The carry-forward rules then allow you to catch up on any missed premiums in the previous six years."

The rules are quite complex, so it is worth getting professional help. The ideal way to build up your pension is to start early and make adequate regular contributions.

If you got off to a slow start, then you should look to make up for this as soon as possible by increasing your contributions and, where possible, using up unused relief from previous tax years.

This can be particularly advantageous for the over-50s: they may now have more money to invest in their pensions as a result of their children having grown up and the mortgage having been paid off.

Under the personal pension rules, you can start to draw benefits from your pension once you hit age 50. You can take up 25 per cent of your pension money as tax-free cash, and the rest must be used to buy an

annuity whose purpose is to provide you with an income for the rest of your life.

If you reach your 50s and have not put as much into your pension as you would like, then by using the carry-back and carry-forward rules you can invest large sums for a relatively small outlay, and so rapidly boost the size of your pension pot.

Say you have £50,000 of unused relief. As a higher-rate taxpayer you could pump this much into your pension with a net contribution of £30,000 (the other £20,000 comes from re-claimed tax).

You can then immediately withdraw 25 per cent (£12,500) of this tax-free. So your net investment would be £17,500 (your original £30,000, less the £12,500 cash you took back) but you would have boosted your pension pot by £7,500 (the £50,000 invested in your pension, less the £12,500 cash you took).

"If people can afford it, this is one way for late arrivals at the pension party to give themselves a reasonable-sized pension fund for a relatively low cost," says Mr Foreman.

Even if you are on the verge of retiring, you may still be able to take advantage of the tax rules, says Peter Quinton, managing director of the Annuity Bureau.

Say you are in the last year of contributing to your pension scheme before you start taking benefits, and £1,000 can still be invested in your pension pot.

As a higher-rate taxpayer, you would require a net contribution of only £600 to make the £1,000 investment.

Once this contribution is made, you then withdraw 25 per cent of the £1,000 as tax-free cash, leaving £750 (£10,000 less the £2,500 cash) to buy an annuity. So for a net investment of £2,500 (your £600, less the £2,500 cash you took back) you will have £750 in your fund to set aside for the annuity.

This money would typically buy a 60-year-old man an annuity paying £600 a year, says Quinton, so your £2,500 investment yielding £600 gross a year, which is a gross return of 17 per cent per annum.

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**TUNBRIDGE WELLS** Equitable friendly society is launching a free guide to all aspects of higher education. The guide outlines the current position on grants and tuition fees, and discusses some of the possible ways of funding a student through higher education.

The guide comes at the same time as Tunbridge Wells launches a university bond, designed to pay out a lump sum at the beginning of each year of higher education, whilst still making use of a child's friendly society tax-exempt allowance.

The bond accepts minimum investments of £30 a month. Terms run between 10 and 30 years. Call 0800 800840.

## Retirement is a risky business

### THE FIXERS



AMANDA DAVIDSON

NOW IS not a good time to be retiring. Of course there may not always be a choice, but in financial terms, retirement could hardly come at a worse moment. Not only is the stock market very uncertain, therefore affecting the value of the pension fund that buys the annuity of income for life, but annuity rates have dropped dramatically in the past few weeks. All this represents a double hit for those who have saved all their lives in order to enjoy their leisure time.

There is not much that can be done about the state of the stock market. A smaller fund means that the income for the rest of someone's life will be reduced. Also, deciding on an annuity means that the rate of income is once again fixed for the rest of an investor's life. Is there a

solution? Delia was in exactly this position. She had decided that she wished to retire about a year ago. Her pension fund was £120,000 and available to purchase retirement benefits. She also had a capital sum that would provide an increased income for her. Delia plans to enjoy her retirement. She

increase. Also, it means that an individual can delay fixing on an annuity until times are better, although no later than 75. The disadvantage is that if investment performance falters, this means a cut in income and there is no guarantee that annuity rates will increase.

However, it is certainly worth considering and working through the figures to see whether the increased risk is advisable. In the end, Delia decided that opting for draw-down was too risky. This was correct as she has other monies which are invested and therefore already subject to the ups and downs of the stock market. No doubt her view on this was coloured by the recent draw-down in the market.

So looking at a spread of investments we were then back to an annuity. The best arrangement that we could find at the time was a level annuity of £2,500 from Norwich Union. We decided on a level annuity as it takes some time for increasing annuities to catch up and there is the benefit of having the money earlier. In addition, the extra lump sum investments that Delia

has would enable her to take an increasing income in the future.

However, there is a third option which worked well for Delia. That is to consider a with-profits annuity. Looking at the with-profits annuity figures, we discovered that Delia can take an income of some £9,500 for the rest of her life. In order to maintain this income, the pension fund must achieve a growth rate of only 6 per cent a year, net of charges.

Thus, as far as risk is concerned, Delia is treading a middle road between the guarantee of an annuity, and the more extreme positives and negatives of a draw-down by opting for the with-profits annuity.

Once again this shows the benefits of looking at all the options. It is essential to look at a person's complete financial circumstances, particularly at such a crunch time as retirement. Even in these troubled times, there are workable options for those facing retirement.

Amanda Davidson is a partner of Holden Meekan, independent financial advisers (0171 692 1700).

There's still hope if you've made a bad investment. By John Andrew

## When fools rush in

DESPITE THE fact that the Financial Services Act was passed in 1986, hundreds of people each year are sold inappropriate investments or given advice that is not suitable to their situation. If this happens to you, where should you go for advice?

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) Ombudsman Bureau resolves disputes between customers and the providers of investment products regulated by the PIA - independent financial advisers, building societies and banks.

Its principal ombudsman is Anthony Holland, a solicitor. The bureau's budget is made up of a contribution from the PIA's regulatory fees and by a flat fee of £500 per case, to be paid by

the firm about whom a complaint is made.

Before the PIA will look at a complaint, the matter must first have been referred to the firm concerned. The firm will acknowledge the complaint within seven working days and should complete its investigation within two months. The firm will then send a letter rejecting or accepting the complaint. If the latter, it will state the settlement being offered.

Should the outcome not be satisfactory, it is then that the complainant should contact the bureau. However, it cannot investigate:

- The terms of mortgages and other loans, unless connected with an investment;
- Bank and building society deposits;
- A mere fluctuation in the value of an investment.

Although the complainant has no right of appeal, legal re-

dress can be sought through the courts. An aggrieved firm can apply to the court for a judicial review if it is able to show that the ombudsman's decision was unfair, or was against the evidence, or was wrong in law. Such reviews, however, are rare.

The amount for which the ombudsman can make a binding award is limited to £10,000, or £20,000 per annum for permanent health insurance. However, this does not mean that the recommended award cannot be higher. The highest award ever made was £400,000.

The PIA Ombudsman Bureau may be contacted at: Hertsmeire House, Hertsmeire Road, London E14 4LB (0171 216 0016).

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# Time Whitehall got its hands dirty

How would you feel if personal details held by the NHS and the DVLA were put up for sale? With Labour's commitment to linking public and private sectors, that day may be nearer than you think. By Paul Gosling

ANYONE WHO believed that the commercialisation of the public sector would end when Labour replaced the Conservatives in government was very much mistaken. Amid all the hype over the Public Finance Initiative and Best Value, a third and perhaps equally important concept has been overlooked - joint ventures between the public and private sectors.

Moves to promote partnership enterprises between business and public bodies have been moving ahead at speed. Last month, a conference was organised jointly by the Treasury and Ernst & Young which examined how to spot joint venture opportunities, and next week there is a follow-up event from PriceWaterhouseCoopers and the Treasury on how these partnership arrangements can work.

Opening the first event, Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, said that the public sector's physical and intellectual assets should be put to more productive use, to generate income for public bodies and their commercial partners. He said that it was an important element in achieving the higher productivity targets set for the public sector by the Chancellor.

"This initiative is also about changing the culture in Whitehall," added Mr Robinson. "It's about giving departments incentives to operate efficiently rather than just telling them to do so. It's about the Treasury giving guidance and support: a partnership in government, as well as between government and the private sector."

Mr Robinson raised the possibility of surprising opportunities. The idea of making more use of publicly owned buildings is hardly new, but the Government is also talking of earning income from the release of some of its databases and internal know-how. The Treasury points out that this will not involve the release of confidential private information, which is protected by the Data Protection Act. But it does want to see more public bodies look for commercial opportunities, in the

way that the Meteorological Office is selling forecasts to businesses. It is even possible that the NHS may be encouraged to sell to drug companies generic or anonymised clinical information on patients' illnesses and recovery rates, to raise revenue for the service. But highly political decisions like this have not yet been taken.

Ralph Ainsworth, a managing consultant with Ernst & Young's public and network services division, was involved in organising the conference. He says that public bodies, particularly the arm's-length executive agencies, were given direction on how to make their operations more commercial, backed by stronger incentives to do so.

"We stressed that it was important that the public sector saw assets not just as costs, but as value providers," says Mr Ainsworth. "These assets may include brands and intellectual assets, though this needs clarification."

Mr Ainsworth says that there are databases held by agencies that have a strong commercial value.

The Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Agency has a customer list that could be sold, and maybe anonymised so that there is no risk of intrusion of privacy," suggests Mr Ainsworth.

"In other areas there are different types of classification of information, where there is a judgement to be made on how far you go."

This conference was mainly aimed at the executive agencies, which now employ the majority of civil servants to deliver services on behalf of government.

The policy will find ground to grow at the agencies," says Mr Ainsworth. "They are closer to markets and to commercial activity."

But the approach is also being promoted to local government. A few days earlier, Hilary Armstrong, Minister for Local Government and Housing, announced the go-ahead for a range of additional Best Value pilot schemes, where councils will be given exemption from compulsory competitive tendering

arrangements in order to develop partnerships. Ms Armstrong said that partnerships with the private sector were an essential element in the Best Value regime. The Best Value partnership pilots include a joint venture between several councils in the South-west to outsource their payroll administration to achieve economies of scale. In another project, three Yorkshire councils are to combine their internal audit services, and will bid for contracts with new clients. A Public Sector/Pvt Partnership Network has been established to promote joint ventures between local councils and businesses, to attract new capital and a more commercial outlook in a range of trading activities - several leading companies have already signed up to the project. And a franchise scheme has been approved, to be run by ICL and Barony, to run revenue collection and benefits and other administration IT projects, in which councils will be able to work together to achieve economies of scale.

Further partnership schemes between councils and the private sector may be approved, even before Best Value legislation is enacted. The Department of the Environment says that additional exemptions will be given to local authorities to opt out of CCT legislation if it helps them prepare for the Best Value regime, and assists the Government to evaluate innovative ways of working with commercial partners.

Recognising this trend towards partnering, a new guide has just been published by the Public Private Partnerships Programme (the P4s). This examines the experience of the London Borough of Lambeth, which externalised its blue-collar direct services organisation to the private contractor Service Team. Lambeth believed that this would be the only route to attracting new capital investment into the DSO, improve the operation's efficiency and ensure that a major contractor was based in the borough, providing job opportunities for residents.

Peter Fanning, chief executive of



Geoffrey Robinson: "It's about giving departments incentives to operate efficiently"

Alistair MacDonald

4Ps, says that the lessons from Lambeth's experience - where they were advised by the specialist lawyers Eversheds - was that local councils do not need to wait for Best Value legislation to adopt a partnering approach, nor do they need to worry unduly about European Union procurement laws.

"A lot of things can be done within existing rules - it doesn't need a change in primary legislation to

have flexibility," says Mr Fanning. "What our guide demonstrates is that within the existing framework it is possible to procure a partner, rather than a supplier. That means that instead of working up detailed specifications under the Private Finance Initiative or whatever, you can procure a partner with a view to jointly working up the specification at an earlier stage in the procurement process.

"The private sector supplier is then involved in the innovative process, rather than just responding to a tendering advertisement where someone else is doing the innovation. This guidance should allow local authorities and private sector partners to work together co-operatively, and I hope innovatively, while working within the EU procurement rules. What the private sector doesn't want to do is to work up a scheme, and

then see the local authority put the whole contract out to tender."

And what the Government does want is for the public sector to get its hands dirtier by getting stuck into commercial opportunities. To do this, as Geoffrey Robinson concedes, involves a massive change in public sector culture.

How well it is able to challenge that ingrained culture will be well worth watching.

## Longest working week and highest divorce rate: any link?

"WELL, DON'T you think it's a bit worrying that I've spent two evenings this week with Olivier and four with Jaap?" I ask Jane during one of our rare weekend outings. "After all, Olivier's the one I'm going out with. Jaap's just my deputy boss."

Jane puts down her fork for a second and wrinkles her nose the way she does when she's giving something the benefit of all her immense brainpower.

"Mmm," she finally proffers, "but then you've spent four evenings with Rory, as well, and you're hardly in danger of falling for him. You're just bonding with your new colleagues, that's all."

Stop fretting about it. Pudding? I'm having ooe."

Anyway, what with Jane's common sense and the warm chocolate torte with saffron cream, I start to feel a great deal better. After all, I can't be the only person in the City who socialises less with their boyfriend or girlfriend than with the people they work with. Hardly surprising, given the hours we all put in at the office. You'd think some policy-maker somewhere might have noticed that not only do the British have the longest working week in Europe, we also have the highest divorce rate, and maybe put two

and two together - but I wouldn't hold your breath on this one. Then there's the added problem that when you do finally get to meet up, it's often at some dinner party where everyone says: "Oh, we can't have couples sitting next to each other," as if we're all still leisurely landed gentry, and you end up talking to some rugby-playing stockbrokers while your jet-setting Frenchman is at the other end of the room trying to look interested in the in-jokes of a couple of Sloaney school-leavers. "A recent event?" asks Jane sympathetically, and I nod. "Friday," I say. "It was

terrible. We managed five minutes' conversation."

Jane murmurs sympathetically and settles down to tell me of all the dinner parties, weddings and general bunfights where she, too, has been kept firmly away from the boyfriend of the time.

"After six months of that, I knew less about the last one than when I first met him. Every week I forgot more. In the end we just gave up. No wonder so many people fall for someone at work."

Only, naturally, I will not be following suit, as I tell Jane. After all, I point out, I didn't fall for anyone in the last place, and

just because the only available male was the odious and deeply unattractive Neil doesn't make my willpower any the less admirable. Jane raises her right eyebrow at this, which means that (a) she doesn't believe me, and (b) that she's been watching far too many Roger Moore films.

"The name's Bond, Jane Bond," I tease, and for a few minutes I manage to stop her talking about people who fall for other people in the office.

But she's a game girl, not easily deflected from the main thread of the conversation, and soon we're back almost where we began, with me pointing out

how disastrous it can be to get too heavily involved with someone at work.

"Look at the high drama at the last place, with Kory and Sam," I say. "It was bad enough as a spectator. Imagine being a participant. No, I think it's the worst idea in the world to go out with a colleague, and I'm never going to do it."

"Well, anyway," Jane says sweetly, "there's no danger of that in this case. You've already told me you don't mind Jaap the least bit attractive."

"No," I reply decisively. "I don't fancy him at all." And even I believed it.

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# Celebrities and cellulite



Sharon Scott: 'It's funny seeing Barbara Windsor in relaxed mode sitting with the other guests, when you're used to seeing her looking very glamorous' Keith Dobney

I didn't know much about health farms until I went to Champneys with my mother several years ago. We had a super time away from everyday interruptions, so when I saw this position advertised it sounded perfect. But having been out of the workplace for a while, I was really surprised to be offered the job.

I have two roles. One is what I call 'looking after Stephen', which includes anything a normal PA would do, including dry-cleaning, diary and travel arrangements. The other involves quite a lot of marketing, and arranging celebrity visits.

Stephen lives between his three health farms. Henlow Grange in Bedfordshire, Forest Mere in Hampshire and Springs in Leicestershire. I've suggested that he get a helicopter to make the travelling easier. It's been particularly stressful in the last 12 months because we have had the BBC filming a fly-on-the-wall series about the refurbishment of Forest Mere, which has added to the workload.

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SHARON SCOTT WORKS FOR STEPHEN PURDEW, SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR OF THE HENLOW GRANGE HEALTH FARMS GROUP

Whereas I have a work life and a home life, Stephen's boundaries are blurred. Even when he is socialising he is also working, and his address book reads like a Who's Who of celebrities. The higher the profile of the people who visit the farms, the better it is for business, because it helps attract customers on the "if it's good enough for them, it's good enough for me" basis. Working with celebrities wasn't something I expected to be doing, but it certainly makes my job more exciting. Of course, there are the few stars who want adoration, and some of the younger ones can get a little too big for their boots, but most want to put on a fluffy dressing-gown like everyone else and just merge into the background.

Frank Bruno, Jimmy Savile and Barbara Windsor are among the reg-

ulars. It's funny seeing Barbara in relaxed mode, sitting with the other guests, when you're used to seeing her looking very glamorous. You can tell how long people have been staying here by their appearance. If their shoulders are still hunched up then they've just arrived, but if they are gliding along the corridor looking peaceful and relaxed, then they have been here a couple of days.

Since Stephen lives on site he eats very healthily, and he also uses the facilities. He believes absolutely in what he does, and so do I. I think it's important that I look fit, too, which I do because I teach ballet to children at the weekend.

We had the *Big Breakfast* here the other day, which meant that I had to be in at 5am to be ready for them. It

was a complicated job because the producer wanted the presenters to knock on the bedrooms of three VIP guests with three different types of breakfast. I was terribly worried that none of our guests would be willing to open their doors to a television crew at such an early hour. I needn't have worried, because they fell over themselves to be chosen.

On another occasion we had two film crews at Henlow at the same time. One crew were filming a hunting and shooting programme, the other crew were with a daytime beauty show. Everyone was getting confused about which crew was which and I feared a disaster. Luckily we got through it OK.

I think that the reason why Stephen and I have such a good rapport is because I manage to stay calm.

Stephen once said to me, "I don't suppose you ever get angry." Of course I do, but I just don't let it show at work. He warned me that there would be times when he would shout at me when he was stretched, but he never has. Although Stephen is terribly busy we still manage to have a very easy-going relationship. We often pull each other's legs, and there's a lot of banter between us.

When I get stressed I nip down to the treatment rooms and get a quick massage, but luckily this job is mainly nine to three so I can be home for my children after school. Because he's a father himself Stephen is very accommodating when I need time to be with my children. He even gives them signed CDs from pop stars, which up their street credibility at school no end. This job has been everything I hoped it would be and more. I received a letter the other day complimenting me on my work, which was very rewarding.

KATIE SAMSON

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# Ivana comes up trumps yet again

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## THE TEMP

AND THIS is when I realise that Martin keeps his outfit profitable by ripping off his staff. Not all of them, obviously: just the ones who show up with big signs hanging round their necks reading "Sucker". Never, ever trust someone you think is a friend in business. It'll be too late when you find out the truth.

No pay packet. Four weeks I've been with this outfit, and there's no pay packet. Ivana has walked past me, and when, going cold all over, I've gone, "Ivana, how about me?", she has turned with the largest grin I've ever seen crossing her face.

"Not you mean, exactly?" she says. "I was wondering where my pay was." She pauses, frowns a little, rolling her eyes to heaven to simulate an attempt to recall. "Not pay?" Something big and phlegmy has blocked my throat. "The pay for the month I've been working here," I squeak.

"No," says Ivana, and it feels like being played with by a very sadistic cat. "I done unnerstent." "I've sold 21 slots. That should be over £1,000 in commission."

Ivana looks puzzled, then fake leaping back in amazement. "Aah, no, no, no, no," she says. "I sink you are mistaken, Amy." She still hasn't got my name straight. "How do you mean, mistaken?" "Bud Amy," says Ivana. "You are here as a trainee. You are here to learn. And I heff to say, I done sink you heff learned very ungrateful."

"You've got to be kidding." "Kidding?" Far from it. You told me you didn't have a job, didn't you?" "Yes." "And I told you we didn't have anything here, didn't I?" "Yes."

"Well," I thought... I fight for words. Then, pathetically, "I thought we were friends." "Friends?" says Martin. "Friends?" You're somebody I bumped into at a cocktail party and did a favour for. I don't believe this. This is the last time I - get out." He rises from behind the desk, bears down on me, and I find myself backing toward the door, the scene I witnessed when I first came here rising in my memory.

"You can't do this!" I shout as he propels me from his office. "You can't I earned that money fair and square!" I'll bloody well sue you if I have to." "Sue away, Laura," he says. "And if you can show your lawyer a copy of our contract, you may have a leg to stand on."

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comes  
umps  
again

THE TEMP

## NEW FILMS

### ANTZ (PG)

Director: Eric Daniels, Tim Johnson  
Starring: Woody Allen, Sharon Stone (voices)

*West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket*

*East End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican, Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

### GIRLS TOWN (15)

Director: Jim McKay  
Starring: Lili Taylor, Brigid Harris, Anna Grace  
Semi-improvised acting lends an effectively baggy rhythm to this coarse-grained tale of three high-school pals (Lili Taylor, Brigid Harris, Anna Grace) thrown into crisis by a friend's suicide. *Girls Town* laces its predictable rites-of-passage drama with a harsh, blue-collar twist. Cue graffiti streets, a hip-hop soundtrack and plenty of slangy, *Noo Joicey* backchat. Although McKay's flick descends into preachiness at times, the tough, committed playing soon hoists it up again.

*West End: ABC Piccadilly*

### MY NAME IS JOE (15)

Director: Ken Loach  
Starring: Peter Mullan, Louise Goodall  
Back home after a pair of uncharismatic foreign diversions (*Land and Freedom*, *Carla's Song*), Ken Loach has rustled up the solid social-realist tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between old life (drugs, crime) and new (a romance with Louise Goodall's middle-class health visitor). Turn a blind eye to Paul Laverty's faintly stock, schematic screenplay, and *My Name is Joe* brilliantly spotlights the groping hopes and thwarted ambitions of a Britain caught below the poverty line. Mullan's muscular, charismatic performance binds the whole thing smartly together.

## GENERAL RELEASE

### AIR BUD (U)

A ludicrous yet entertaining tale about a young boy who moves to a new town after the death of his father and befriends a basketball-playing dog. What will snare audiences is the catalogue of tricks, beautifully performed by the canine Buddy. Yet, equally importantly, the film is nicely paced and enjoyable for both adults and children.

*West End: UCI Whiteleys*

### EAST SIDE STORY (U)

This oddball documentary spotlights the propagandist entertainment that flourished behind the Iron Curtain. *Volga, Volga* was Stalin's favourite movie, while Frank Shobell's hormonal antics in 1968's *Hot Summer* had him labelled 'the Elvis of the East'. Hollywood's retinues retaliated in strict Soviet fashions. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Screen on the Hill*

### ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. *West End: ABC Baker Street, Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

### EVER AFTER (PG)

Drew Barrymore stars as a 16th-century daddy's girl who is tormented by her beastly stepmother (Anjelica Huston) after her father's death but finds hope in the arms of a handsome prince. This might more accurately have been entitled *Cinderella 90210*. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Warner Village West End*

### THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RERELEASE) (18)

What was most shocking back in 1973 looks oddly ho-hum today. Where Bill Friedkin's chiller still chills is in its haunting secondary elements, in the snarling, distorting soundtrack and ultra-elegant pacing – those still moments between the storms. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

### FUNNY GAMES (18)

This attack on screen violence views like a harsh lab experiment: mix one family unit with two psychopaths (Arno Frisch, Frank Giering), then sit back and watch the fireworks. It discreetly cuts away during its more shocking moments, yet is big on gruesome sound effects. The cast-iron claustrophobia leaves you fighting for breath. *West End: Metro, Curzon Minima, Ritzy Cinema*

### HALLOWEEN: H2O (18)

Twenty years after the events of the original *Halloween*, our resident psychopath returns to terrify the one that got away – his sister (Jamie Lee Curtis). Standard shocks with a glazing of post-modern in-jokes. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

### I WANT YOU (18)

A torrid tale of a hairdresser (Rebel Weisz) preyed on by her ex-cod ex-boyfriend (Alessandro Nivola). Cue deep pockets of secrecy and sudden surges of murky sex en route to a grim finale. *West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue*

### LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Eliaçet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Mezzanine, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End*

*West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket*

### THE PLAYERS CLUB (18)

Director: Ice Cube

Starring: Lisa Raye

This virgin writing-directing gig from LA rapper Ice Cube is a right muddle. On the face of it, *The Players Club* efforts to lift the lid on America's seedy black strip joints, and shakes its head disapprovingly at the sight. Trouble is, Mr Cube can't drag his camera away from all that sweet, honeyed flesh for long enough to make his point. So, as our embattled Girl Power heroine (Lisa Raye) fights against the system, the film's gaze keeps wandering towards the floor show. Stripping's a bad thing to happen to a nice lady. Cube seems to be saying. But whoosh – just look at that nice lady strip.

*West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero*

### SNAKE EYES (15)

Director: Brian De Palma

Starring: Nicolas Cage, Gary Sinise, John Heard

De Palma's Atlantic City-set conspiracy thriller plays its mystery plotline as a kind of quickie jigsaw, slotting together a patchwork of flashbacks, split screens and action replays to create the intricate staging behind a political assassination. Our nominal puzzle-solver is Nic Cage's swaggering local cop, whose harried investigation soon brings him smack up against Gary Sinise's rigid Navy commander. Meanwhile, the director's flamboyant magpie touch (borrowing a little from *Rashomon*, a little from *No Way Out*) keeps the whole thing looking big and bright and gaudy.

*West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

### THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)

Director: Jim Jarmusch

Starring: Jim Carrey, Laura Elena Harring, Michael J. Fox, Wallace Shawn

Carrey's swashbuckling performance is the film's sole saving grace, but the rest is a muddle.

*West End: Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

Xan Brooks

### MULAN (U)

In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her father from combat. This has got it all: a pro-active heroine; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour; nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It is also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made.

*West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

### A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is not bad at all – the sort of gold-plated trash that Hollywood does better than anyone else. *West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Swiss Centre, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

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### PRIMARY COLORS (15)

As Jack Palance, John Travolta's performance amounts to a bravura, vaudeville impersonation of Clinton, and you can't take your eyes off him. The film does brilliant things with narrative, symbolism and farce, but doesn't leave its audience to draw their own conclusions. *West End: Barbican Screen, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

### RAZOR BLADE SMILE (18)

Eileen Daly's vampire assassin indulges her penchant for kinky sex, rubber cunts and loaded weapons. Cobbled together on a skid-row budget, this boasts some of the most archly awkward dialogue this side of *Palomino*. *West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

### SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad to seek out a young private behind enemy lines. Few viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by catharsis – it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences which are branded on the memory. *West End: Plaza*

### SMALL SOLDIERS (PG)

Inventive children's adventure about a batch of toy soldiers brought to life by a military microchip. The director, Joe Dante, draws some nice parallels with his own best film *Gremmies*. *West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

### STILL CRAZY (15)

Clement and Le Frene's scripted comedy about a bunch of 1970s rockers reforming for a comeback tour. Hailing from *The Full Monty* school of feel-good fodder, *Still Crazy* boasts charm in abundance and a clatter of raucous gags. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

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## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

### Film Xan Brooks

THE COMPUTER animation peddled by the likes of *Toy Story* and *DreamWorks' fine Antz* (left) still strikes Luddites like myself as a faintly soulless and fledgling innovation. Where *Antz* really hits home is in its more old-fashioned ingredients: in its Metropolis-style depiction of a totalitarian community; and in Woody Allen's wonderfully deft, funny reading of its worker-ant hero: "the middle child in a family of five million".

On general release

Alternatively, check out John Huston's *War Stories*, a stark weave of archive interview footage, with extracts from two of the director's banned WWII documentaries (*The Battle of San Pietro*, *Let There Be Light*). Huston's war-is-hell message had the US authorities panicking.

NFT, London SE1 (0171-928 3232) 8.45pm

*West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero*

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12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce.  
8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 10.30 John Peel.  
12.00 Giles Peterson. 2.00 Charlie Jordan. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

**RADIO 2**  
(88.9-92MHz FM)  
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Nick Barracough. 8.00 Mike Harding.  
8.00 All Singing, All Dancing, All Night. 10.00 Radio 2 Classic Albums. See *Pick of the Day*.  
10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.  
9.00 Masterworks.  
10.30 Artist of the Week.  
11.00 Sound Stories.  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy.  
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. See *Pick of the Day*.  
2.00 The BBC Orchestra.  
4.00 Choral Evensong.  
5.00 In Tune.  
7.30 Performance on 3. The first part of the London Symphony Orchestra's Shostakovich retrospective, conducted by the composer's friend Mstislav Rostropovich earlier this year, was very well received. Over the next two weeks' performances on 3 features the second part of their series as the last eight symphonies complete the cycle.  
London Symphony Orchestra/Mstislav Rostropovich. Shostakovich: Symphony No 9; Symphony No 8.  
9.20 Postscript. David Gale talks to five leading thinkers about their own radical vision of the future. 3. Feminist writer Sadie Plant sees the Internet as a liberating space for women and believes they will be empowered by technology in the next century.  
9.45 Songs by Stenhammar, The Wanderer; A Ship Sails; Miss Blonde and Miss Brunette; Coastal

Song (Songs and Moods, Op 26). Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo), Bengt Forsberg (piano).  
10.00 Ensemble. Mozart's friends had to be rather thick-skinned to withstand his ribald wit and practical jokes, but they were rewarded with some miraculous music. Penny Gore investigates Mozart's friendships with the oboist Friedrich Raimann, the horn player-cum-cheesemonger Ignaz Leutgeb, and the composer's flute-playing partner Anton Stadler. Including: Oboe Quartet in F, K370; Gaudier Ensemble; Trio in E flat, K498 (Kegelstatt). Emma Johnson (clarinet), James Boyd (violin), Ian Brown (piano).  
10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright discusses the work of sculptor Louise Bourgeois, who remains prolific at the age of 87 but whose new works angages subtly with death as well as eroticism. Plus first-night news from English National Opera's new production of 'Boris Godunov'. Francesca Zambello directs Musorgsky's epic tale of the guilt-ridden tyrant and his country.  
11.30 Jazz Notes.  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi. (R)  
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**RADIO 4**  
(92.9-94.6MHz FM)  
6.00 Today.  
8.00 NEWS: Midweek.  
9.45 Serial: Memoirs of an Infantry Officer.  
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.  
11.00 NEWS: Live Luggage.  
11.30 Funny Bones.

## WEDNESDAY RADIO

### PICK OF THE DAY

**FLEETWOOD MAC** (right) is the focus of *Classic Albums* (10pm R2) tonight which looks at *Rumours*. The band members describe the affairs and break-ups behind a record which, apart from selling millions, supplied the theme music for the BBC's *Formula 1* coverage and Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. More music can be found in *Costing the Earth* (8pm R4).

ROBERT HANKS



which returns with a look at what progress has been made since an EC report five years ago condemned pollution levels in the North Sea. The Lutonshire Concert (1pm R3) features the pianist Alexandre Tharaud and clarinettist Ronald van Spaendonck in an appealing programme of Weber, Berg, Schumann and Poulenec.

ROBERT HANKS

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9.45 Serial: Memoirs of an Infantry Officer.  
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.  
11.00 NEWS: Live Luggage.  
11.30 Funny Bones.

about the way his new career in a wheelchair has blocked a hundred paths but opened a thousand sliding doors. Nick wheels and deals his way to a first-class ticket across Europe.  
9.00 NEWS: Costing the Earth. Five years ago, nations surrounding the North Sea were shamed by a report describing how they were polluting their own back yard, and Britain came in for particular criticism. But Brussels - the city which is pointing the finger - turns out to be one of the worst offenders. Presenter Guy Linley Adams. See *Pick of the Day*.  
10.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversation.  
10.45 The World Tonight.  
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulnes. Philip Franks reads Alain-Fournier's classic story of adolescent idealism, love and the search for the lost domain. Abridged by Doreen Estall (S/10).  
11.00 Five Squeaky Pieces. Off-beat comedy sketches and poems written and performed by Claire Calman, Jules Davis, Maria McElroy, Meera Syal and Arabella Weir. Additional material by Sarah Parkinson.  
11.30 Still Waters. By Ann Marie Di Mambro. Kate Taylor runs a magazine that draws its stories from the ancient mysteries of the Scottish Border hills. But Kate also has a personal mystery to solve - why did her husband, Peter, disappear seven years ago? With Ann Scott-Jones and Emma Currie. Director Patrick Rayner. Part 3.  
8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk, Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves, David Starkey and David Cook cross-examine guests on the moral and ethical issues behind one of the week's controversies.  
8.45 Karmic Compensation. Nick Walker, who strode confidently out into the world of international journalism ten years ago, writes home

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

## SATELLITE TV, RADIO/19

### INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

#### CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

I'M CURRENTLY at the Western European Zonal in the Principality of Andorra in the Pyrenees; and for the week that I'm away, Bob Wade has again kindly agreed to help out.

Forty players, including no fewer than 25 grandmasters, are competing for six places in the forthcoming Fide world championship in Las Vegas - originally scheduled for next month but following various alarms and excursions probably destined to end up being a year later.

If you're in a hurry - to choose a restaurant, for example - you should avoid negotiations with chess players, who will probably have slightly more opinions than bodies. The players' meeting at 11pm on Thursday was therefore no formality. True, the seeding order was slightly wrong, so the pairings had to be redone; and the provisions for tie-breaking are somewhat confused. I'm sure that if it comes to it there will be renegotiations, but as bodies stand at the moment if more than six tie then there will be a knockout - as Tony Miles pointed out, seven for three places would be particularly outlandish.

Battle got under way on Friday with most of the top seeds - a serious bunch starting with Van Wely, Lautier, Mikhael Gurevich, Illescas, Piket, myself, Hebdon, Miles, Dorfman and Emma - putting their opponents away.

I was the exception in an up-and-down game where I got a good opening, blundered a pawn for some compensation, established a huge bind in the ending and then allowed my opponent to escape with half-a-point which I doubled with one gloriously outlandish.

Leaders after four rounds are Tony Miles and Luis Comas (Spain) with 3.5 points.



Christian Bauer (White)

Despite the pawn deficit the target on b2 gives Black a wonderful game.

50... Rg7  
50... h4! is even better, though White can get some play after 51 Rdt! Rg7 52 h4 Bxb2 53 Rd6+.

51 Kd3 Rg2 54 Kd3 Kxg5

52 Nc3 Bxg3 55 Re1 Kd5

53 Kc3 Rc2+ 56 Re2! Re1+

56... Rxe2 57 Kxe2 Kd4 58 h4 e4

59 f4 e3 60 Kf5 61 Kxg3 Kxg2

Kf3 would be a draw.

57 Rxe5+!

I'd missed this, seeing only 57 Re1.

Play continued 57... Kxe5 58

Kxg4 b4 59 Kd4 Kd6 Kxg3 61

Kth3 d5 Kd4 e3 f6 h3 64 f2 h2

65 Bg2 b1Q, and White won 10 moves later.

Leaders after four rounds are Tony Miles and Luis Comas (Spain) with 3.5 points.

#### BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

East-West game; dealer South

North

♦A K 5

♦Q 10 8 3

♦K 10 4 3

♦K

West

East

♦J 9 7 2

♦10 6

♦7 5

♦2

♦6

♦Q J 9 7

South

♦Q 8 4 3

♦A K 19 4

♦A 8 5 2

♦none

"THE OPERATION was a success but..." murmured North softly after watching his partner go down in Six Hearts on this deal. South scowled - he had just spotted the 100 per cent play that he had missed.

South opened One Heart and North responded 2 No-trumps (agreeing hearts and forcing to game). South's next bid of Three Clubs was something of a surprise to North, for it showed a club shortage and an interest in progress. North cue-bid Three Spades, South co-operated with Four Diamonds, and North repeated his spade cue-bid.

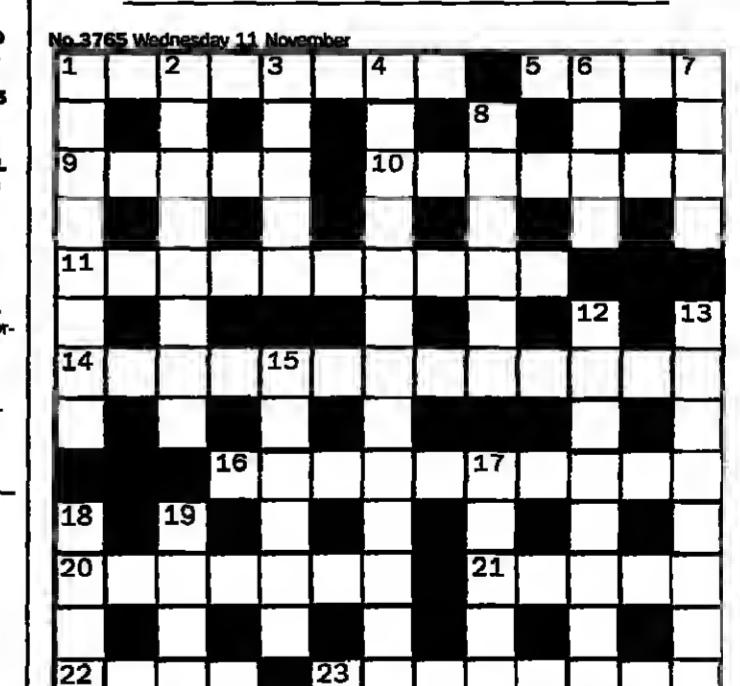
Next South showed his first-round club control with Five Clubs, and North bid Five Diamonds. South's jump to Six Hearts ended the auction, for neither partner held third-round diamond control. Very elegant, and it was clearly the right contract.

West led ♦Q against the slam and declarer ruffed East's ace. He drew trumps and tested the spades. When they proved to be 4-2, he ruffed the last spade and turned his attention to diamonds. However, his play of the ace and another was not a success and East came to two diamond tricks to defeat the contract.

It is true that South would have

### CONCISE CROSSWORD

No 3765 Wednesday 11 November



#### ACROSS

- Evaluate (8)
- Jetty (4)
- Banish (5)
- Impressively (7)
- Opposite (10)
- Items of formal wear (6,7)
- Favourite topic (5-5)
- Sunshade (7)
- Up above (5)
- Impison (4)
- Unnecessary (8)

#### DOWN

- Australian city (8)
- Art form (8)
- Vigilantly attentive (5)
- 25th anniversary celebration (6,7)
- Second-hand (4)
- Child's toy (2-2)
- Set of astrological signs (6)
- Terrifying (8)
- Hazardous substance (8)
- Self-centredness (6)
- Store up (5)
- Long poem (4)
- Boast (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Hayes, 4 Tax (Haystack), 7 Open, 8 Greenery, 9 Portmanicus, 10 Advert, 13 Resist, 15 New Zealander, 19 Rummant, 20 Elan, 21 Est, 22 Rewe, DOWN: 1 Hippo, 2 Yvette, 3 Sigma, 4 Tonga, 5 Xerxes, 6 Bettor, 11 Denture, 12 Trepun, 14 Sisicre, 16

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

### PICK OF THE DAY



**PERHAPS THE** most famous of Egyptian queens is back in the news as this week's *The Great Egyptians* (10pm Discovery) reassesses her life. It seems that far from being the irresistible seductress of popular myth, Cleopatra was, in fact, not a very remarkable-looking woman, and was driven solely by a desire to protect her children. Shot at Armost, the film reveals a crypt below the temple at Dendera where Cleopatra offered up

sacrifices to the gods. Taking time off from directing his own Shakespearean productions, Kenneth Branagh appears as an actor in someone else's. In Oliver Parker's reading of *Othello* (11.45pm Sky Premier), he makes a suitably devious Iago, wickedly encouraging his commanding officer, Othello (James Earl Ray), to do away with his loyal new wife, Desdemona (Uma Thurman).

JAMES RAMPTON

Exposed (8794633). 11.30 Real Lives: Ashes to Ashes (767940). 12.00 Fire Playing with Fire (852352). 1.00 First Flights (8429552). 1.30 Wheel Nuts (755183). 2.00 Close.

**SKY ONE**  
The Simpsons (56140). 2.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (80701). 2.30 Hollywood Squares (85324). 8.00 Guilty (76533). 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (74459). 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (57925). 12.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (8744853). 12.30 Days of Our Lives (9798514). 1.00 The Special K Collection (852262). 3.00 The Special K Collection (852262). 3.45 The Special K Collection (852262). 4.00 The Special K Collection (852262). 4.45 The Special K Collection (852262). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (922). 6.30 Married with Children (7275). 8.30 Friends (7275). 10.00 The Big Red One (76921). 10.30 M.A.S.H. (76921). 11.30 The Return of the King (76921). 12.30 The Return of the King (76921). 1.00 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 2.30 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 3.00 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 3.45 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 4.00 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 4.45 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (922). 6.30 Married with Children (7275). 8.30 Friends (7275). 10.00 The Big Red One (76921). 10.30 M.A.S.H. (76921). 11.30 The Return of the King (76921). 12.30 The Return of the King (76921). 1.00 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 2.30 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 3.00 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 3.45 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 4.00 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 4.45 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (922). 6.30 Married with Children (7275). 8.30 Friends (7275). 10.00 The Big Red One (76921). 10.30 M.A.S.H. (76921). 11.30 The Return of the King (76921). 12.30 The Return of the King (76921). 1.00 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 2.30 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 3.00 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 3.45 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 4.00 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 4.45 The Prince of Egypt (852262). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (922). 6.30 Married with Children (7275). 8.30 Friends (7275). 10.00 The Big Red One (76921). 10.30 M.A.S.H. (76921). 11.30 The Return of the King (76921). 12.30 The Return of the King (76921). 1.00 The Prince of Egypt

